SHONEN JUMP MANGA

vol. 24

NISEKOI

False Love

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

The highland in the story is actually based on a real place. It's a beautiful meadow up in the mountains in the area where I grew up. If you're interested, please check it out! (shameless plug)

Naoshi Komi

NAOSHI KOMI was born in Kochi Prefecture, Japan, on March 28, 1986. His first serialized work in *Weekly Shonen Jump* was the series *Double Arts*. His best-selling shonen manga series *Nisekoi* is available in North America from VIZ Media.

NISEKOI:
False Love
VOLUME 24
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

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NISEKOI: FALSE LOVE is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains suggestive themes.

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NISEKOI

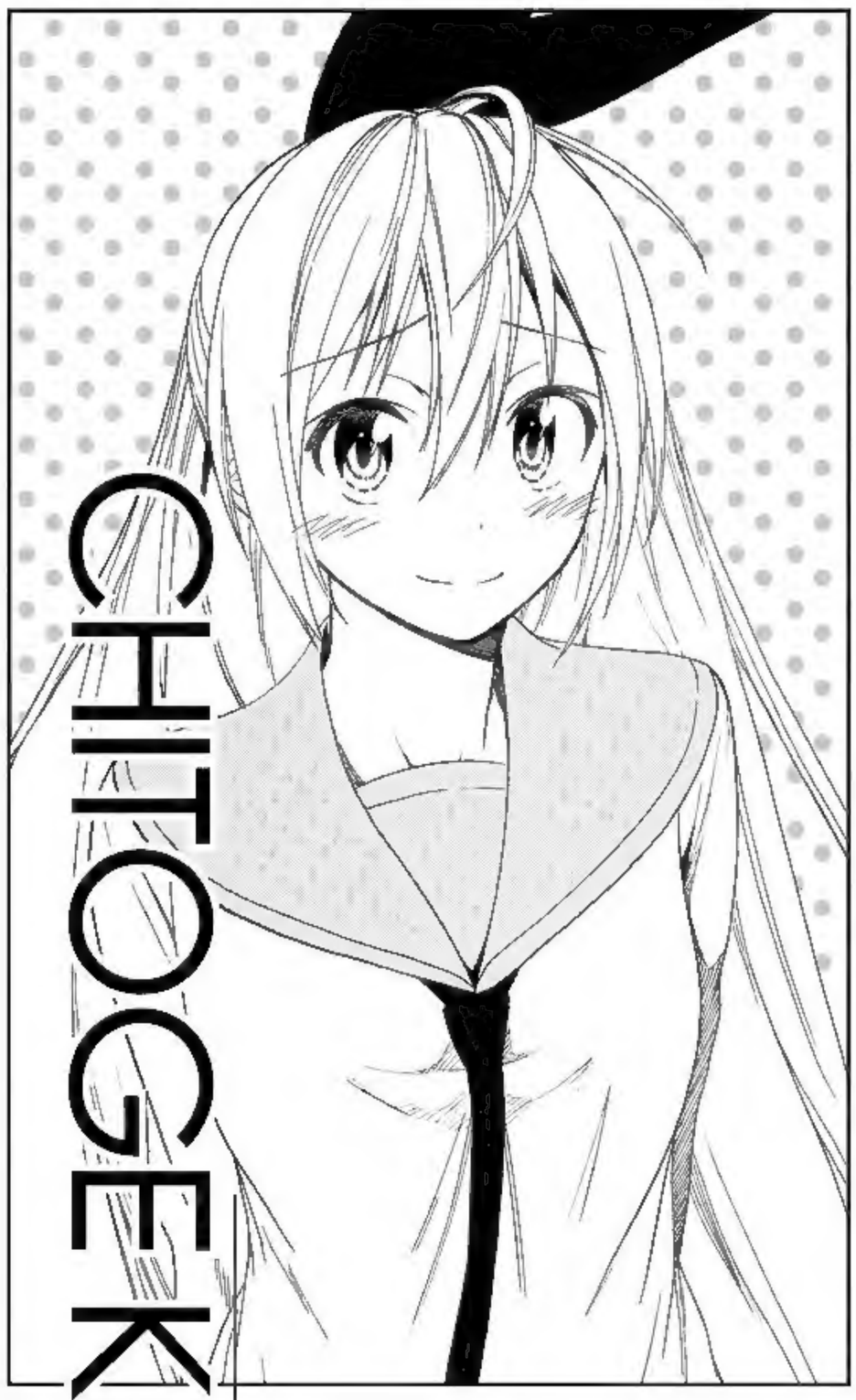
False Love

vol. 24: Night of Falling Stars

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

KOSAKI ONODERA

A girl Raku has a crush on. Beautiful and sweet, Kosaki has no shortage of admirers. She's a terrible cook but makes food that *looks* amazing.



CHITOGE KIRISAKI

A half-Japanese bombshell with stellar athletic abilities. Short-tempered and violent. Comes from a family of gangsters.

SHU MAIKO

Raku's best friend is outgoing and girl-crazy.

RAKU ICHIJO

A normal teen whose family happens to be yakuza. Cherishes a pendant given to him by a girl he met ten years ago.

RURI MIYAMOTO

Kosaki's best gal pal. Comes off as aloof, but is actually a devoted and highly intuitive friend.

YUI KANAKURA

A childhood friend of Raku's, Yui is the head of a Chinese mafia gang and the homeroom teacher of Raku's class at his school. She was staying at Raku's house and professed her love to him. She also has a key that's linked to some kind of promise.

MARIKA TACHIBANA

Daughter of the chief of police, Marika is Raku's fiancée, according to an agreement made by their fathers—an agreement Marika takes very seriously! Also has a key and remembers making a promise with Raku ten years ago. Due to a physical condition, she has to leave Japan for treatment in an American hospital.

CHARACTERS & STORY

Ten years ago, Raku Ichijo made a promise with a girl he loved that they would get married when they met again...and he still treasures the pendant she gave him to seal their pledge.

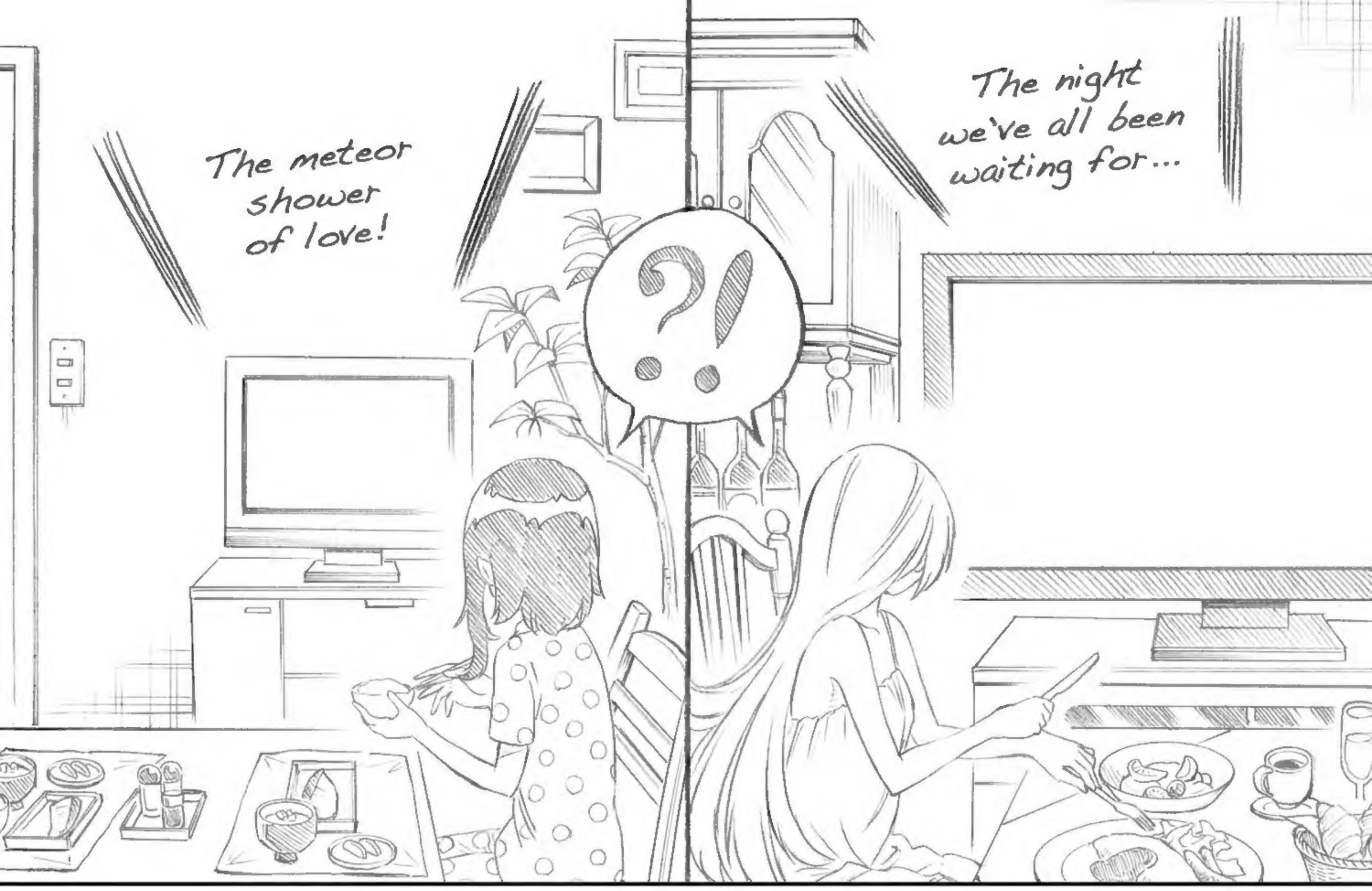
Thanks to his family's circumstances, Raku has to pretend he's dating Chitoge Kirisaki, the daughter of a rival gangster. Despite their constant spats, Raku and Chitoge manage to fool everyone. Chitoge also has a token from her first love ten years ago—an old key. Meanwhile, Raku's crush, Kosaki, also has a key, as do Marika, the girl Raku's father has arranged for him to marry, and Yui, a childhood friend who's their homeroom teacher. Raku still doesn't know who his promise girl is when he realizes he has feelings for Chitoge. Torn between his love for Kosaki and Chitoge, Raku knows he has to make a choice. As the friends start their final year of high school, they begin to discuss their plans for the future. In the middle of one such conversation, Ruri and Maiko encounter a lost child looking for her parents...!

SEISHIRO TSUGUMI

Trained as an assassin in order to protect Chitoge, Tsugumi is often mistaken for a boy.

HARU ONODERA

Kosaki's adoring younger sister. Has a low opinion of Raku.



NISEKOI
False Love
vol. 24: Night of Falling Stars

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Chapter 208: Admiration

WAIT A SEC... IS THIS...

...A LOST CHILD?!

I THINK SO...

SHE LOOKS ABOUT THE AGE OF THE TWINS.

SHE'S SPEAKING ENGLISH, RIGHT?

AND SHE DOESN'T LOOK JAPANESE.

!!

She speaks my language!!

English

What's wrong? Did you lose your mommy and daddy?

THAT'S RIGHT... YOU HAVE FIVE-YEAR-OLD TWINS IN YOUR FAMILY, RIGHT, RURI?

YES... HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?

HEH...

I HAVE EXCELLENT TEACHERS.

I can handle basic conversation, anyway.

YOU SPEAK ENGLISH!

WOW!!

We have a special study group!

Yes... I can't find mommy and daddy!

Oh dear! What's your name?

Rosa...

Have you walked quite a bit since then?

Yes...

Do you remember where you were?

...

When did you lose track of them?

I don't know.

DON'T WORRY. WE'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR PARENTS.

WHAT IF IT'S NOT THAT EASY?

THERE ISN'T A POLICE BOX ANYWHERE NEARBY, EITHER.

Unlikely her parents will be able to find her then.

NEXT TIME YOU GET LOST, YOU SHOULD STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.

OH DEAR.

OKAY... I'M WILLING TO TRY...

BUT WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF SHE WERE A BOY?

BESIDES, SHE'S A CUTIE. WHAT IF SOME SLEAZEDOG TRIES TO PICK HER UP?

FLASH

FLASH

WELL, WE CAN HARDLY ABANDON A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS, CAN WE?

LOOK WHO'S TALKING.

FLASH

FLASH

FLASH

JUST KIDDING! THAT WAS A JOKE!!

Wait up!!

I'LL HANDLE THIS ALONE.

OH, YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT, KID!

Buck up!

BUT AT LEAST IT DEFUSED AN AWKWARD MOMENT.

WELL, THIS IS A HASSLE.

...DID I ASK HIM THAT?

...ON MS. KYOKO?

DO YOU STILL HAVE A CRUSH...

WHY ON EARTH...

OKAY, THAT SOUNDS GOOD.

...AND HIT UP SPOTS THAT LOOK POPULAR WITH FOREIGNERS. HOW'S THAT?

WELL, LET'S HEAD TOWARD THE NEAREST POLICE STATION...

NOW...

...WHERE SHOULD WE START LOOKING?

I...don't know...

Try to remember...

Nobody else can do it for you.

Um...

Well, Rosa?

Do you recognize this place?

Um...

Urk!

No, of course not!!

Did my Mommy and Daddy go away and forget me?

WAAAAAAH

SNIFFLE

Mommy...

I HAVE A SPECIAL PRESENT FOR YOU!

GUESS WHAT?

YEESH. WHAT NOW?

Look, try to calm down.

The important thing is to keep a cool head.

OH, ROSA! LOOK HERE!

MR. MOPPY! SOLD ONLY IN JAPAN!!

TA-DAA!!

SHOOSH

AND LOOK! IT'S HIS GOOD BUDDY, MR. CHAPPY!

Yaaaaaay!! Mr. Moppyyyyy!!!

Oooh, thank you!!

Mr. Moppyyyyy!!

GRAB

IT'S BROADCAST IN LOTS OF COUNTRIES.

HE'S FROM A KIDDIE CARTOON, BASED ON A PICTURE BOOK FROM THE U.K.

MR. MOPPY?

SHE HAS A MR. MOPPY PIN ON HER PURSE...

...SO I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT BE A FAN.

TA-DAAA!

KUSA MOCHI?

KIDS DON'T LIKE THAT KINDA THING...

I HADN'T NOTICED...

ARE YOU HUNGRY, ROSA?

LOOK WHAT I'VE GOT...

*NOTE: KUSAMOCHI ARE GREEN GLUTINOUS RICE TREATS.

The same treats daddy got me yesterday!

Oh!

Yummy!

Yes!!

Can I have some?

You like these?

OH, GOOD!

I'M GLAD THEY'RE A HIT!

Kuse Mochi

SO I JUST FIGURED...

ROSA KEPT GLANCING AT THEM IN THE SHOP WINDOW.

Did you just get lucky?

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

HUH?

WELL, ACTUALLY ...

HEH HEH HEH...

NOT BAD, RIGHT?

I TOTALLY DIDN'T NOTICE.

You're pretty observant.

Oh!

HOW ABOUT OVER THERE?

HAVE YOU SEEN THAT TOWER BEFORE?

SINCE ROSA DOESN'T RECOGNIZE THIS AREA, WHY DON'T WE TRY SOMEWHERE ELSE?

NOW...

WAIT...

JUST A MINUTE!!

WELL, LET'S HEAD THAT WAY, THEN!

HA HA!! BINGO!

I went there with Mommy and Daddy today!

I know that tower!!

I POSTED HER PICTURE AND SHARED IT WITH SOME FOLKS I KNOW...

REMEMBER WHEN I SNAPPED THOSE PHOTOS OF ROSA?

OH, WELL...

I don't get it...

I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK!

BUT HOW ARE YOU MAKING THESE CALLS?

I'VE BEEN LETTING YOU SET THE COURSE...

MAIKO...

THEY SAID THEY'D BE CHECKING OUT SHRINES IN THIS AREA TODAY.

...WHERE ROSA AND HER PARENTS ARE STAYING!

...ONE OF THEM HAPPENS TO WORK AT THE HOTEL...

OUT OF THE SELECT FRIENDS IN THE PRIVATE FORUM...

PRETTY GOOD, HUH?

HA HA HA!!

SO, IMPRESSED WITH MY INFORMATION NETWORK?!

...

That's harsh, Ruri!!!

OUCH!

YEAH...

I'M PRETTY IM-PRESSED.

CREEPED OUT?!

I WAS IMPRESSED EARLIER, BUT NOW I'M KINDA CREEPED OUT.

NO...

I COULDN'T DO WHAT HE DOES.

NOTICING LITTLE THINGS ABOUT PEOPLE...

...AND RESPONDING WITH SENSITIVITY...

IT'S BEYOND ME.

HERE, RURI...

THIS IS FOR YOU.

ONCE, ICHIJO TOLD ME...

...THAT YOU ACT LIKE A JERK BUT THAT YOU'RE A GOOD GUY.

ICHIJO'S SO CONSCIENTIOUS. I NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY HE WOULD RELY ON A GUY LIKE YOU.

BUT I KINDA GET IT NOW.

ICHIJO DOESN'T RELY ON ME.

NAH. THAT'S NOT IT.

...WHO LOOKS UP TO ICHIJO.

I'M THE ONE...

HUH?

RAKU GIVES EVERY-THING...

...100 PERCENT OF HIS EFFORT.

ALL THE TIME...

...WITH EVERYONE.

HE DOES HIS SINCERE BEST ALL THE TIME.

...TO MAKE THE MOST OF MY YOUTH.

SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME...

BACK THEN...

...I ALWAYS WALLED MYSELF OFF.

EVEN WHEN I WAS GOOFING OFF, A PART OF ME WAS JUST STANDING THERE, NOT FEELING IT...

...DISCON-NECTED...

AND THEN ONE DAY...

...RAKU AND I WERE HEADED HOME...

AND WE SAW A WOMAN ALMOST FALL ON THE STAIRS IN THE STATION.

3番乗車ホーム

I SAW HER STUMBLE...

"SHE WON'T REALLY FALL."

"SOMEONE CLOSER WILL HELP HER."

ALL THESE STUPID THOUGHTS RAN THROUGH MY HEAD.

BUT I DIDN'T SPRING INTO ACTION.

BUT NOT RAKU...

THAT'S WHEN I GOT IT.

THIS IS WHAT SHE MEANT.

...TO BE FULLY IN EACH MOMENT, NOT WORRYING ABOUT THE FUTURE OR HOW OTHERS MIGHT REACT...

A LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

SHE MEANT...

...TO ENJOY BEING A KID.

WHEN MS. KYOKO TOLD ME...

EVER SINCE THEN...

...I TRY TO ALWAYS GIVE EVERYTHING MY BEST.

WHETHER I'M BEING SERIOUS OR GOOFING OFF...

I WANT TO MAKE THE MOST OF THESE YEARS.

WHEN I REALIZED THAT...

...I WAS ASHAMED OF MYSELF FOR NOT MOVING.

I FELT LIKE SUCH A JERK.

AND IF I WIND UP A TEACHER ONE DAY...

...I'LL TELL HIM TO DO THE SAME.

...AND I HAVE A KID LIKE ME IN MY CLASS...

JUST DON'T TELL HIM I SAID THAT.

IT'S OUR LITTLE SECRET!

...RAKU'S MY ROLE MODEL.

SO THAT'S WHY...

...AND BELIEFS...

...AND ASPIRATIONS, LIKE JUST ANYONE ELSE.

HE HAS FEELINGS...

...AND STRUGGLES...

BUT OF COURSE...

...AS A THOUGHTLESS CLOWN.

I HAD MAIKO PEGGED...

?

...WHO FEELS LIKE A JERK.

What's that, Rosa? You recognize that place?

I'M THE ONE...

I JUST JUDGED HIM...

I DIDN'T SEE ANY OF THAT.

...WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING HIM AT ALL.

I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO ACCEPT IT.

WHP WHP

NO... I KNEW ALL ALONG HE WASN'T JUST A DUMB CLOWN.

HUH?

I DO HAVE A CRUSH ON SOMEONE.

BUT ALSO, HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO SHARE HIS INNER FEELINGS SO EASILY.

...BY THE FACT THAT MAIKO THOUGHT ALL THESE THINGS...

STILL...

I'M SURPRISED.

...WHEN YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD RAKU, YOUR BEST FRIEND?

WHY DID YOU TELL ME...

COME TO THINK OF IT...

YOU HAVE A CRUSH, SHU?!

WHAAAAT?!

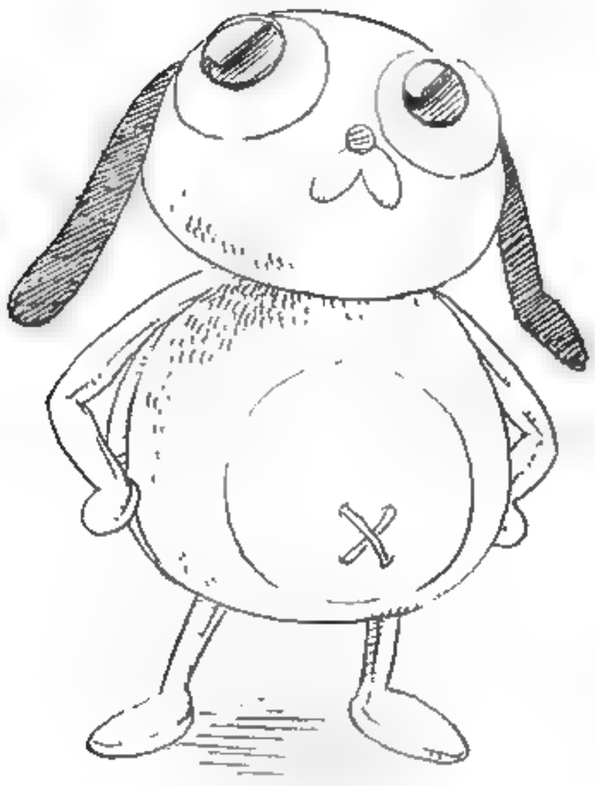
HEY, MAIKO...

...

OR...

DID YOU JUST FEEL LIKE TELLING ME THIS STUFF FOR NO REASON?

Profile of Mr. Moppy



Mr. Moppy is a cute and dependable stuffed animal.

But that persona is actually a disguise.

Mr. Moppy is actually possessed of the ancient spirit of General Marazoroff!! Mr. Moppy traverses the land from East to West having great adventures and making clever quips with his beloved horse Chappy from his past life. One day they will overthrow Ussona, the evil underground organization...!

YOU HADN'T TOLD ICHIJO, YOUR BEST FRIEND, THAT YOU HAD A CRUSH ON SOMEONE...

...BUT YOU TOLD ME FOR SOME REASON.

IT HAPPENED BEFORE TOO.

Chapter 209: Problematic

WHY IS THAT?

I DON'T THINK YOU SHARE YOUR INNER THOUGHTS MUCH.

ACK...

MAYBE THAT WAS A REALLY SELFISH THING TO ASK...

YOU'RE RIGHT— IT IS STRANGE.

HM... GOOD QUESTION.

I GUESS THAT'S WHY.

I THINK...

I SENSE THAT WE'RE ALIKE IN A WAY.

AND MAIKO?!

ME...

ALIKE?

HUH?

OH... I FIGURED YOU'D SOCK ME A GOOD ONE FOR SAYING THAT...

...

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

EEEEK ♡

I CAN SEE THAT.

NAH.

...BUT STRANGELY ENOUGH, IT RINGS TRUE.

I CAN'T SAY HOW WE'RE ALIKE...

ALIKE.

Papaaaaa!!

Mamaaaa!!

...HAS TO DO WITH A SORT OF SELF-CONTEMPT.

...BUT MAYBE THE REASON EVERYTHING HE DOES RUBS ME THE WRONG WAY...

I HATE TO ADMIT IT...

I know it's scary, but hang in there.

Okay. Let us know if you get tired.

I'm okay now that you guys are with me.

I'm okay.

You okay, Rosa?

Are you tired?

My mommy and daddy are really close!

You remind me of my mommy and daddy.

You don't like him?

...

Well, not especially.

We're just friends.

Acquaintances, really...

??

Really?

Rosa...

We're not really close.

And especially the way he pokes fun at people.

It bothers me that he's always so frivolous.

He's always minding other people's business.

???

You use hard words...

Frivolous? ???

Who, me?

And making a big fuss over something.

I thought you liked him too.

OOF...

Well, I like him.

He's nice. He gave me Mr. Moppy.

...ARE GETTING MARRIED!

YOU AND I...

KA-BAM

WEIRD... IT'S THE FIRST TIME ANYONE'S DIRECTLY ASKED ME IF I LIKE SOMEONE...

YEESH! SHE THINKS WE MAKE A GOOD COUPLE?

BUT THAT'S ANOTHER MATTER ALTOGETHER!!

FLAIL FLAIL

MAYBE I DO SEE MAIKO A BIT DIFFERENTLY NOW...

IMPOS-SIBLE!!

AND FEEL FREE TO NEVER COME BACK, WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.

GO RIGHT AHEAD IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.

waah!!

OH MAN... MAYBE I'LL GO TALK TO THEM!!

WOO HOO!

LOOK AT THE PAIR OF MEGABABES OVER THERE!!

THIS TURKEY...

...AND ...

...ME?

WELL, YOU KNOW ...

...THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN I MIGHT MEET MY DREAM GIRL.

I'M TOTALLY SINCERE!

IF ICHIJO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL, YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE FOLLOWING HIS EXAMPLE MUCH.

IS THAT MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR YOUTH?

I CAN HANDLE THIS ALONE.

WELL, WHY DON'T YOU GO LOOKING FOR HER THEN.

YEESH!

WHAT A JERK.

...HAVE SINCERE FEELINGS FOR MS. KYOKO?

DID YOU REALLY...

OOPS.

NO...

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU TAKE ANYONE SERIOUSLY.

BASED ON HOW YOU ACT...

WAIT...

I SHOULDN'T ...

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE A PERSON LIKE YOU...

...HAVING GENUINE FEELINGS FOR ANYONE.

I HAVE NO RIGHT TO GO THERE.

AND YET...

...DON'T WANT TO SAY THESE THINGS.

I...

...WHEN IT COMES TO THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER.

...NOBODY WILL BELIEVE YOU...

YOU KNOW, IF YOU NEVER TAKE ANYTHING SERIOUSLY...

...I CAN'T STOP.

...FOR SOME REASON ...

...WHO ACTS LIKE THAT.

...A PERSON...

I'D RATHER NOT BE AROUND...

WHY...

Let's be nice to each other!

Don't fight!

Hey, you two... What's wrong?

PANIC

PANIC

I GUESS I OVERDID IT.

HM...

...I WAS BEING SERIOUS.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT...

SEE YOU TOMORROW, RURI.

TAKE GOOD CARE OF ROSA.

I'M SORRY MY BEHAVIOR BOTHERED YOU.

I THINK I'LL TAKE OFF NOW.

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

...

Ruri? Where did Shu go?

Did you guys have a fight?

Ruri?

IT'S LIKE MY BRAIN AND EMOTIONS ARE OUT OF WHACK.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME.

WHY...

...DO I FEEL SO SAD NOW?

AND WHY...

...DID I SAY ALL THAT STUFF?

What's wrong, Ruri?

Did he say something mean to you?

I DON'T GET IT.

You were?!

No, Rosa.

I was the mean one.

...to someone you love.

You shouldn't be mean...

Rosa...

Why do you think I love Shu?

Huh?

Well...

This whole time...

...you've been looking at him.

I HAVE?

Oh!

VOOSH

Yaaaaay!! There you are!!!

Papa!!

Mama!!

IF ANYTHING, HE DRIVES ME CRAZY.

I WAS LOOKING AT HIM IN ANNOY-ANCE.

NO.

I LOVE...

...SHU?

...MAIKO BOTHERS ME SO MUCH...

I WONDER WHY...

WAIT...

OH!

Watch out!!

Wait, Rosa!!

WHEEE

SKR

ARE YOU OKAY?

PHEW...

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE, ROSA.

Waaaaaaah!

IT'S OKAY. YOU CAN CRY. I'VE GOT YOU.

THERE, THERE. I KNOW, THAT WAS SCARY!

SNIFFLE...

I'M GLAD I CAME BACK.

I DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT JUST LEAVING YOU TWO TO FEND FOR YOURSELVES.

OH, YOU KNOW.

HM?

HOW...

...I MANAGED TO TAKE ACTION *THIS TIME.*

I'M JUST GLAD...

THAT WAS A SURPRISE.

...A LITTLE BIT AT A TIME.

I JUST HOPE I'M MANAGING TO CHANGE...

...MAIKO GETS UNDER MY SKIN.

BASED ON THIS...

I'D SAY YOU'VE CHANGED ...

I THINK I KNOW WHY...

I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE I HATED HIM.

GOOD POINT!

HA HA!

HE'D ALSO MANAGE TO HURT HIMSELF SOMEHOW.

ICHIJO?

RAKU PROBABLY WOULD'VE MADE IT THERE A STEP SOONER.

NAH ...

SOMEHOW... I'M DRAWN TO THAT.

...BUT UNDERNEATH IT ALL, HE'S STRUGGLING MORE THAN ANYONE.

HE'S A CLOWN AND A GOOF AND HE ACTS TOTALLY INSINCERE...

I SEE...

I'VE MANAGED TO FALL FOR A REALLY PROBLEM-ATIC GUY.

MUMBLE

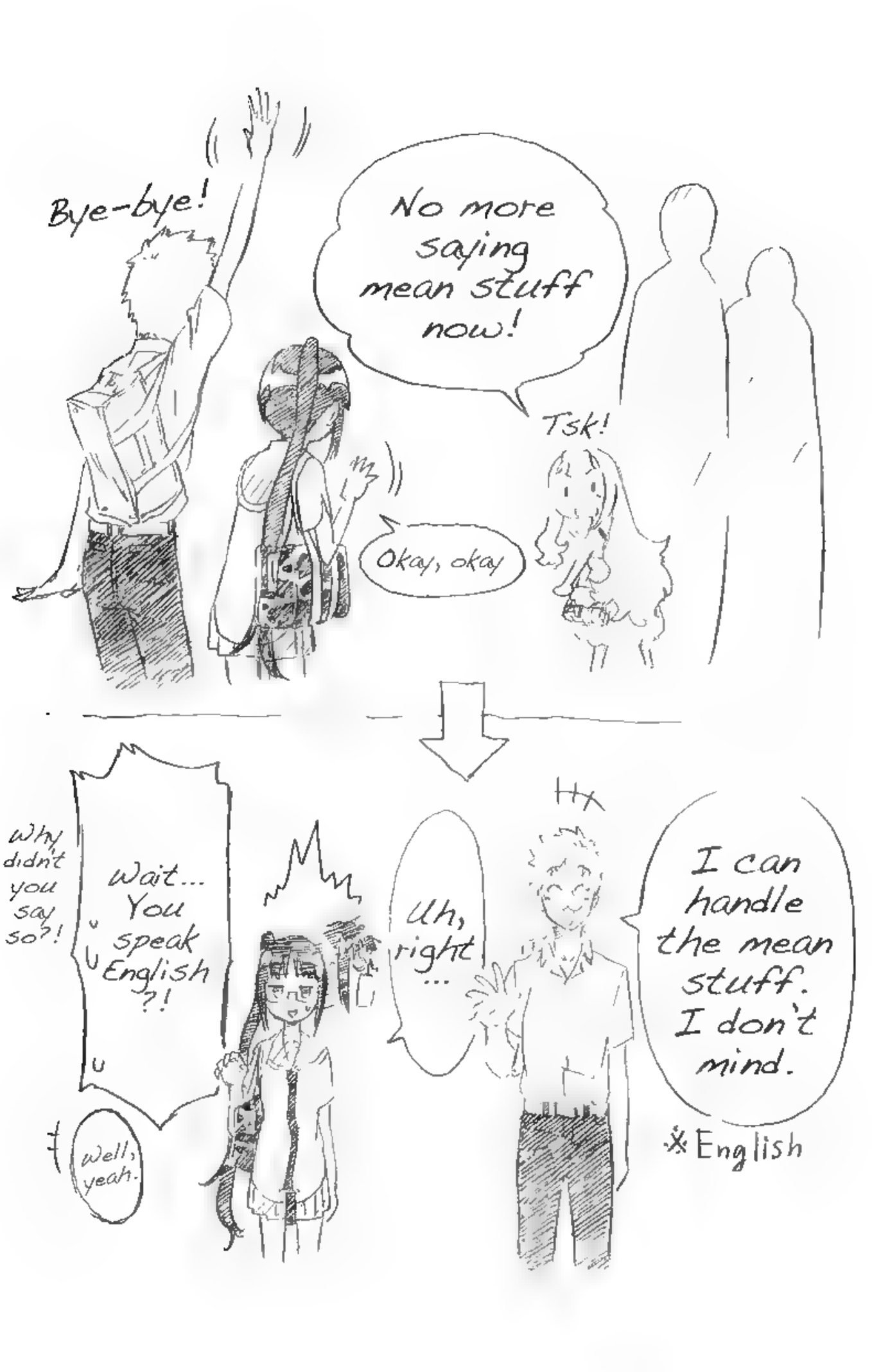
SORRY FOR THE STUFF I SAID.

HUH?

WHADJA SAY?

NOTH-ING.

GOOD GRIEF.


Bye-bye!
No more saying mean stuff now!
Tsk!
Okay, okay
Why didn't you say so?!
Wait... You speak English?!
Well, yeah.
Uh, right...
I can handle the mean stuff. I don't mind.
※English

Chapter 210: Decided

...AND USE THIS KEY TO GET WHAT'S INSIDE.

ONE DAY, WHEN WE'RE OLDER, WE'LL MEET AGAIN...

...WE'LL GET MARRIED.

AND THEN...

DO YOU PROMISE...?

YEAH.

I
PROMISE...

WHY NOW, OF ALL TIMES?

THAT DREAM...

KREAK

SCREE

SCREE

SCREE

...SINCE I MADE THE PROMISE TO THAT GIRL...

IT'S THE 12TH SUMMER...

JULY

BOTH ARE IRREPLACE-ABLE.

BOTH ARE IMPOR-TANT TO ME.

NOW, I'M WAVERING BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT GIRLS.

BUT I DECIDED, DIDN'T I?

I...

NO MATTER WHO SHE ACTUALLY TURNS OUT TO BE...

THAT THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PROMISE WE MADE.

NOW THEN!

THE LEGENDARY METEOR SHOWER, RIGHT?

SHOULD BE COOL!

BUT ISN'T THERE A TYPHOON COMING?

THEY'RE NOT SURE WHERE IT'S HEADED YET.

TOMORROW IS FINALLY THE DAY TO STARGAZE!

SO...

WHERE'S THIS THING YOU WANTED TO SHOW US, SHU?

?

YEAH!

YOU GET WHAT I'M SAYING.

...

YES, JUST A BIT, I SUPPOSE.

TSK! TSK!

CREATING PRECIOUS MEMORIES IS PRETTY IMPORTANT TOO!

WE HAVE ENTRANCE EXAMS COMING UP, YOU KNOW.

ARE YOU FORGETTING ABOUT SCHOOLWORK?

Ha ha ha...

AND SO'S TAKING A BREATHER NOW AND THEN.

WATCH AND BE AMAZED!!

HEH HEH HEH... SO YOU REMEMBERED.

BAM!

TA-DAAAAH!!

I MANAGED TO BORROW THIS!!

OOOOH!!

WOW!!

THE METEOR SHOWER'LL BE CRYSTAL CLEAR WITH THIS!

IT'S A GENUINE ASTRONOMICAL TELESCOPE!

AS USUAL, YOUR NETWORKING CONNEC-TIONS RUN DEEP...

And other stuff too!

I'M GONNA BRING PLAYING CARDS!

WE'LL HAVE TO BRING LOTS OF SNACKS.

STARGAZING ON THE SCHOOL ROOF? SOUNDS FUN!

We can't be here with-out her.

SHE'S GONNA BRING THE KEY TO UNLOCK THE SCHOOL AND JOIN US!

I EVEN GOT PER-MISSION FROM MS. YUI TO COME UP HERE.

I KNOW THAT MUCH ...

THEY WOULDN'T SHUT UP ABOUT IT ON THE MORNING NEWS.

BUT WAIT-THERE'S MORE!!

THEY SAY YOU CAN SEE SOME REALLY BEAUTIFUL FALLING STARS.

IT'S A BIG EVENT, THIS METEOR SHOWER. ONLY HAPPENS ONCE EVERY 50 YEARS.

Huh?!

Every-thing's upside-down?

That's how it works.

YOU KNOW WHY THEY CALL THIS PARTICULAR METEOR SHOWER A LEGENDARY ONE?

PSST, RAKU...

Can you see things besides stars with this?

You sure can.

HUH?

IT'S BASICALLY A WINGMAN METEOR SHOWER!!

AHHH ♡

IT'S SAID THAT ANY LOVE CONFESSION MADE WHILE WATCHING THE SHOWER WILL RESULT IN SUCCESS!

I KNOW. IT WAS ON THE NEWS.

...

KYAHH ♡

...

YOU REALLY LOVE THESE SORTS OF STORIES.

NO! YOU BUY INTO THAT CRAP WAY TOO EASILY!

WHICH MEANS, RAKU, OL' BUDDY ...

THIS IS THE PERFECT CHANCE TO MAKE A MOVE ON YOUR INTENDED.

...I MADE UP MY MIND.

WHEN I HEARD ABOUT IT...

A METEOR SHOWER THAT COMES ONCE EVERY 50 YEARS. ONE THAT ENCOURAGES LOVE...

I DECIDED TO CONFESS MY LOVE ON THAT DAY...!!

?

?

IT'S ALREADY JULY...

ONCE THIS SUMMER ENDS, MY LIFE AS A HIGH SCHOOLER WILL BE OVER IN A FLASH.

WHEN WE GRADUATE, OUR FALSE ROMANCE COMES TO AN END.

AND I MIGHT BE FORCED TO LEAVE JAPAN TOO...

I'VE HAD PLENTY OF OPPOR-TUNITIES UP UNTIL NOW...

HONESTLY, I'LL TAKE ANY CHANCE I GET AT THIS POINT.

BUT... I JUST COULDN'T FIND THE COURAGE TO...

I'M SCARED, BUT...

LATELY, I FEEL AS IF HE TREATS ME LIKE A GIRL AND NOT HIS PAL!

SO IF I'M GOING TO CONFESS, IT HAD BETTER BE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

I WANT TO SPEND THIS FINAL SUMMER AS A REAL COUPLE!

I WANT TO BE A DIFFERENT PERSON...!

THAT'S WHY...

...IF I DON'T MAKE A MOVE, NOTHING WILL EVER HAPPEN.

I'M WORRIED THIS COULD RUIN OUR FRIEND-SHIP, BUT...

STILL... I'VE DECIDED.

...I CONFESS!

TOMORROW WILL BE THE DAY...

IT'S ALREADY JULY.

...BUT I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, RAKU...

What's wrong, Kosaki?

SHAKA SHAKA TREMBL TREMBL

Mis-tress?

...

I KNOW THAT.

ONCE WE GRADUATE, KIRISAKI'S HEADED BACK TO AMERICA.

YOU'RE SERIOUSLY GONNA COME THIS FAR AND STILL BE ALL WIMPY?

I TOLD YOU, YOU HAVE TO DECIDE.

IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, YOU'VE STILL GOT A BACKUP GIRL TO CONFESS TO...

Double your chances!

BUT THINKING ABOUT IT TOO HARD'S NO GOOD EITHER!

IF YOU DO THAT, THINGS MIGHT BECOME CLEARER...

DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHO YOU GO AFTER. JUST ATTACK, ALREADY!

I CAN'T MAKE A DECISION LIKE THIS SO LIGHTLY!!

Whiiiich iiis iiiit gonnnnna beeee?

Stop spouting dumb crap like that!!

...DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

I COULD NEVER ...

DON'T BE STUPID...

...SWITCHING OVER TO THE OTHER...

...IS JUST NOT SOMETHING I'D DO.

IF I PICK ONE AND CONFESS TO HER...

...EVEN IF SHE REJECTS ME...

I JUST COULDN'T.

I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT...

EACH OF US...

THAT'S SO LIKE YOU, RAKU.

REALLY?

FWOOO

...KEPT THESE FEELINGS DEEP INSIDE...

I'm fine, I'm fine.

Are you okay, Mis-tress?

...AS THE STARGAZING DAY APPROACHED.

I GOT HERE WAY TOO EARLY...

RIGHT ...

MEETING TIME: 6 P.M.
CURRENT TIME: 4 P.M.

AWW... I HOPE SOMEONE ELSE SHOWS UP SOON.

TSUGUMI'S COMING WITH PAULA, RIGHT?

UGH... GONNA CONFESS TONIGHT... CONFESS...

I JUST COULDN'T SIT STILL AT HOME.

I MADE UP MY MIND... OR MY HEART DID, ANYWAY...

B-BMP

B-BMP

B-BMP

HUH?

CHITOGE ?!

WHA-?! KOSAKI ?!

WHY'RE YOU SO EARLY?!

OH... N-NO REASON... I GUESS...

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.
WOW!! FEELS SO REFRESHING TO COME TO SCHOOL NOT IN UNIFORM.
We can chat now.
I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THIS TIME.
GLAD YOU'RE HERE. I GOT HERE WAY TOO EARLY TOO.

YOU DECIDED TO SHOW UP EARLY FOR NO REASON TOO?

SERI-OUSLY? EVEN YOU?!

HUH?

"NO REASON" IS NOT MUCH OF A REASON.

RAKU?!

ICHIJO?!

?

I THOUGHT WE WERE MEETING AT SIX?

HUH? WHAT?

WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK US TO HELP?

THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE CARE OF THAT BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE CAME.

I'M HERE TO TEND TO THE ANIMALS.

WELL, WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME. LET'S DO IT TOGETHER.

UH... NO THANKS. I'VE GOT IT...

WE INSIST. COME ON!

UGH... THAT'S NO GOOD. I DECIDED TO DO THIS ALONE...

SHOULD I ASK RURI FOR SOME HELP?

FIRST, HOW CAN I GET HIM ALONE?

I DECIDED I'M GONNA CONFESS, BUT HOW DO I DO IT?

I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK ABOUT IT.

UGH... I THOUGHT KEEPING MY HANDS BUSY WOULD TAKE MY MIND OFF IT, BUT NO DICE.

RRMMBB

Please come back!!

ONO-DERA?!

WAHHH!! I FORGOT TO LOCK UP THE CAGES!!

THUMP

HUNH ?!

GAHHH! I SPILLED ALL THE ANIMAL FEED!!

PLIP

I'M FINE. IT'S NOTHING...

S-SORRY...

HAHH...

HAHH...

MESSING UP LIKE THIS ISN'T LIKE EITHER OF YOU.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU TWO TODAY?

FSHHHHH

FSHH

PLIP

UH...

RAIN...?

PLIP

FSSHHHHHHHHHHH!!

TING-A-LING

JANGLE

NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

WELL...

OUR STAR-GAZING'S RUINED...

NO WAY...

THERE'S A STORM WARNING FOR THE AREA...

THE TYPHOON SUDDENLY CHANGED COURSE.

IT COULD GET DANGEROUS, SO DON'T LEAVE THE HOUSE, HARU.

OKAY. I GOT IT...

TELL MOM AND THE OTHERS I'M SAFE.

I-IT'S FINE. DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH!

I'M SORRY, MISTRESS. I'LL FIND MY WAY TO YOU SOMEHOW ...!

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ALONE. I'LL BE OKAY.

WHAT?! THE TRAINS STOPPED RUNNING CUZ OF THE TYPHOON?!

HELLO? SHU?

WELL THIS CERTAINLY DIDN'T TURN OUT HOW WE EXPECTED ...

LUCKY FOR US, SHE ALREADY GAVE ME THE KEY.

SHE SAYS IT COULD GET BAD, SO WE SHOULDN'T LEAVE THE SCHOOL.

BIG SIS YUI JUST CON-TACTED ME.

BEEP

SIGH...

FSH HHHHHH

...WE HAVE THE WHOLE SCHOOL TO OURSELVES!

THIS MEANS...

HM?

I can relate !!!
A sudden change in direc-tion...
KABAM

Kuma Kuma Kuma Bear

Wooooooo

Chapter 211: Night of Falling Stars

THE WIND IS GETTING REALLY STRONG.

YEAH. WE'RE RIGHT IN THE CENTER.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE STUCK HERE FOR A WHILE.

I'M OKAY FOR NOW.

BUT I WILL BE IF THE STORM GETS BIGGER.

YOU'RE NOT FREAKED OUT BY THE THUNDER AND LIGHT-NING?

YEAH, BUT WHAT'RE THE CHANCES OF THAT?

MAYBE WE'LL ENTER THE EYE OF THE STORM AND CATCH JUST A LITTLE PEEK.

RRMMBB

SO MUCH FOR STARGAZING!

KSHHHHH HHHHHH

BUT... WELL... HM....

IS TONIGHT REALLY THE NIGHT?

STILL, I PROMISED MYSELF.

DO I STILL CONFESS? I WON'T HAVE THE LUCKY METEOR SHOWER ON MY SIDE...

WHAT A TIME FOR A TYPHOON TO STRIKE.

I GUESS THEY WERE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO STARGAZING.

GEE... THEY BOTH SEEM PRETTY LET DOWN.

UGH...

SHEESH... WHAT'RE YOU TWO SO GLUM ABOUT?

C'MON, LET'S ENJOY THIS OPPORTUNITY!

THINK ABOUT IT. THIS COULD BE PRETTY FUN!

THE THREE OF US HAVE THE WHOLE SCHOOL TO OURSELVES FOR A NIGHT!

HOW OFTEN DOES THAT HAPPEN?

WE PLANNED ON A PICNIC, RIGHT?

HAVE ALL YOU WANT- I DON'T WANT IT TO GO TO WASTE.

TADAA

LET'S START BY FILLING OUR BELLIES.

HERE'S THE FOOD I PACKED.

AA

WOW!!! AMAZING!!

THERE'S TEA AND SWEET-ENER TOO.

YOU MADE ALL THIS ON YOUR OWN?

WOW... YOU'RE REALLY SOME-THING!

YOU'RE RIGHT... WE SHOULD ENJOY THIS.

YEAH! LET'S PARTY!

CHITOGE, YOURS IS EXTRA BIG... WITH EXTRA MEAT!

WOWWW! YOU KNOW ME SO WELL!!

WAH!

HERE, THIS IS FOR YOU, ONODERA.

YUM! CANDIED SWEET POTATOES!

LET'S EAT!

NEVER MIND. LET IT GO.

After I spent all that time...

OH NO! TSUGUMI HAS MOST OF THE STUFF I WAS GOING TO BRING.

I BROUGHT SWEETS FROM HOME TO SHARE WITH YOU ALL.

Wow... What mem-ories!

YEAH, AROUND OCTOBER.

THAT WAS IN OUR FIRST YEAR, RIGHT?

SEC-OND SEMES-TER?

AND THEN REMEMBER WHEN YOU....

HA HA HA HA HA!

NOW WE'VE GOTTA CRAM FOR OUR ENTRANCE EXAMS.

WE CAN'T GOOF OFF SO MUCH ANYMORE.

WELL, WE'VE BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS FOR THREE YEARS!

WE'VE SURE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER.

ME TOO.

BASICALLY, YEAH.

OH?

YOU HAVE?

HUH?

OH...

I've heard you talking about it a lot lately, Chitoge.

BY THE WAY...

HAVE THE TWO OF YOU CHOSEN YOUR PATHS?

IT'S STILL A SECRET FOR NOW.

WELL...I'LL TELL YOU WHEN IT'S MORE SOLID.

HUH? WHY?

YEAH... ME TOO.

MINE'S KIND OF A REACH TOO.

ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE KIND OF A REACH...

SOME-THING OCCURRED TO ME...

REMEMBER WHEN YOU AND ME AND HARU WERE IN THAT JAPANESE CONFECTION CONTEST RECENTLY?

WHAT ARE YOU BOTH TALKING ABOUT?

HEY, YOU TWO...

...THANK YOU.

I REALLY WANT TO SAY...

I'M REALLY GLAD I CAME TO JAPAN.

OH, WELL... I GUESS...

CHITOGE ?

What's up?

WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?

HUH ?

I'VE REALLY ...

...HAD A GREAT TIME.

IT'S BEEN LIKE A DREAM.

EVERY DAY SPARKLES.

FULL, HAPPY...

I REALLY ...

...WASN'T SO HAPPY IN JUNIOR HIGH.

I THINK IF I HADN'T COME TO JAPAN AND MET YOU BOTH, I NEVER WOULD'VE ENJOYED HIGH SCHOOL THIS MUCH.

AND WITHOUT YOU, RAKU...

WELL, A LOT OF THINGS WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT.

YOU'VE BEEN CONNECTED TO PRETTY MUCH EVERY GOOD EXPERIENCE.

WITHOUT YOU, KOSAKI...

...IT WOULD'VE TAKEN ME MUCH LONGER TO SETTLE INTO OUR CLASS.

AND I MIGHT NOT HAVE MADE SUCH GREAT FRIENDS.

SO...

I REALLY WANT TO CONTINUE MAKING AWESOME MEMORIES WITH YOU.

AND YOU MIGHT GO BACK TO THE U.S., CHITOGE.

WHEN WE GRADUATE, WE'LL ALL GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS.

WELL, I COULD ONLY SAY IT AT A TIME LIKE THIS.

I'VE HAD SO MUCH FUN SINCE MEETING YOU TOO, CHITOGE.

AW, C'MON. WHAT'S WITH THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?

SUMMER VACATION IS COMING UP.

DON'T WORRY. THERE'LL BE OTHER CHANCES.

I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO TODAY!

ARGH... THIS STUPID TYPHOON!

WAIT...

WHERE IS THE TELESCOPE, ANYWAY?

UP ON THE ROOF, I GUESS...

HUH?

I HEAR IT COST A FORTUNE.

WISH WE COULD'VE LOOKED THROUGH THAT TELESCOPE.

YEAH, I WOULD'VE LIKED THAT TOO.

KSHAAAAAAA

WHY DIDN'T HE LEAVE IT INSIDE?!

YOU'RE RIGHT! THERE IT IS!

AAAAAAAA

WELL, THE TYPHOON WASN'T SUP-POSED TO HIT US!

CAREFUL! DON'T SLIP!

GAH! IT'S HEAVY!

HERE, YOU GET THAT SIDE!

EEP?!

SHO

WATCH OUT, ONO-DERA!!

OSH

UM...

HOW CAN I HELP?

STAND BACK, KOSAKI... YOU COULD GET HURT.

KLONK

OOF !!

OH NO!!

OH NO! HE'S UNCON-SCIOUS!!

YOU OKAY?! THAT SOUNDED BAD!

EEK!! ICHIJO ?!

HOW DOES HE LOOK?

HE WON'T WAKE UP.

AT LEAST HE'S NOT BLEEDING...

TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK

I'LL GO AND GET SOME STUFF FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE.

KEEP AN EYE ON RAKU, WOULDJA, KOSAKI?

OKAY. THANKS.

HE WAS JUST TRYING TO PROTECT ME...

SIGH... WHY AM I SUCH A KLUTZ?

I'LL TELL HIM HOW SORRY I AM WHEN HE WAKES UP...

SO MUCH FOR CONFES-SING MY FEEL-INGS.

...AND MAYBE FEEL AWK-WARD AND PUT ON THE SPOT.

HE'LL PROB-ABLY BE SUPER SUR-PRISED ...

I WONDER HOW HE'LL REACT.

WHEN I TELL HIM HOW I FEEL...

WHEN WILL I EVEN GET A CHANCE...?

SIGH... LOOKS LIKE I WON'T GET TO CONFESS MY FEELINGS TONIGHT.

MAYBE I NEED TO QUIT ALWAYS WAITING FOR THE PERFECT TIME.

UGH...

THE SCHOOL FEELS KINDA SPOOKY AT NIGHT.

BUT KNOWING ICHIJO...

...NO MATTER HOW HE FEELS, HE'LL BE KIND ABOUT IT.

ON THE WAY HOME, I'LL FIND A WAY TO BE ALONE WITH HIM, AND THEN...

I'M GOING TO CONFESS MY FEELINGS TODAY!!

RIGHT! I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!!

JOLT
?!
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
EEP!
CLATTER
KRASH!
I HOPE CHITOGE'S OKAY...
Waah! It's totally dark!!
Eek!!
WHOA!
THE LIGHTS WENT OUT?!
ZZZT
PAH
I CAN'T HEAR THE RAIN ANYMORE.
OR THE WIND.
WHOA!
BUT AREN'T WE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TYPHOON?
HUH?

WOW...

THE EYE OF THE STORM?

WHAT IS THIS?

THE CITY IS TOTALLY DARK FROM THE BLACKOUT.

IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL IT'S ALMOST OVER-POWERING ...

NOOO...

BETTER GIVE UP AND GO BACK...

HEY, ICHIJO ...

YOU KNOW WHAT?

I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU ALL THIS TIME.

I...

FOR A LONG, LONG TIME...

HUH?

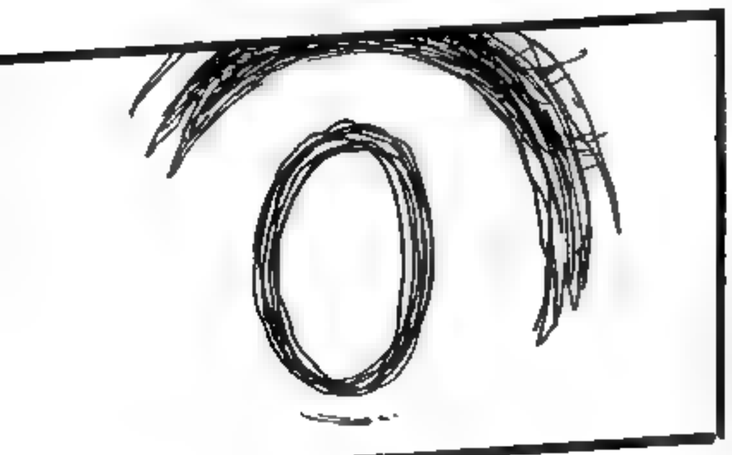
WHAT DID KOSAKI JUST SAY?

...IN LOVE?

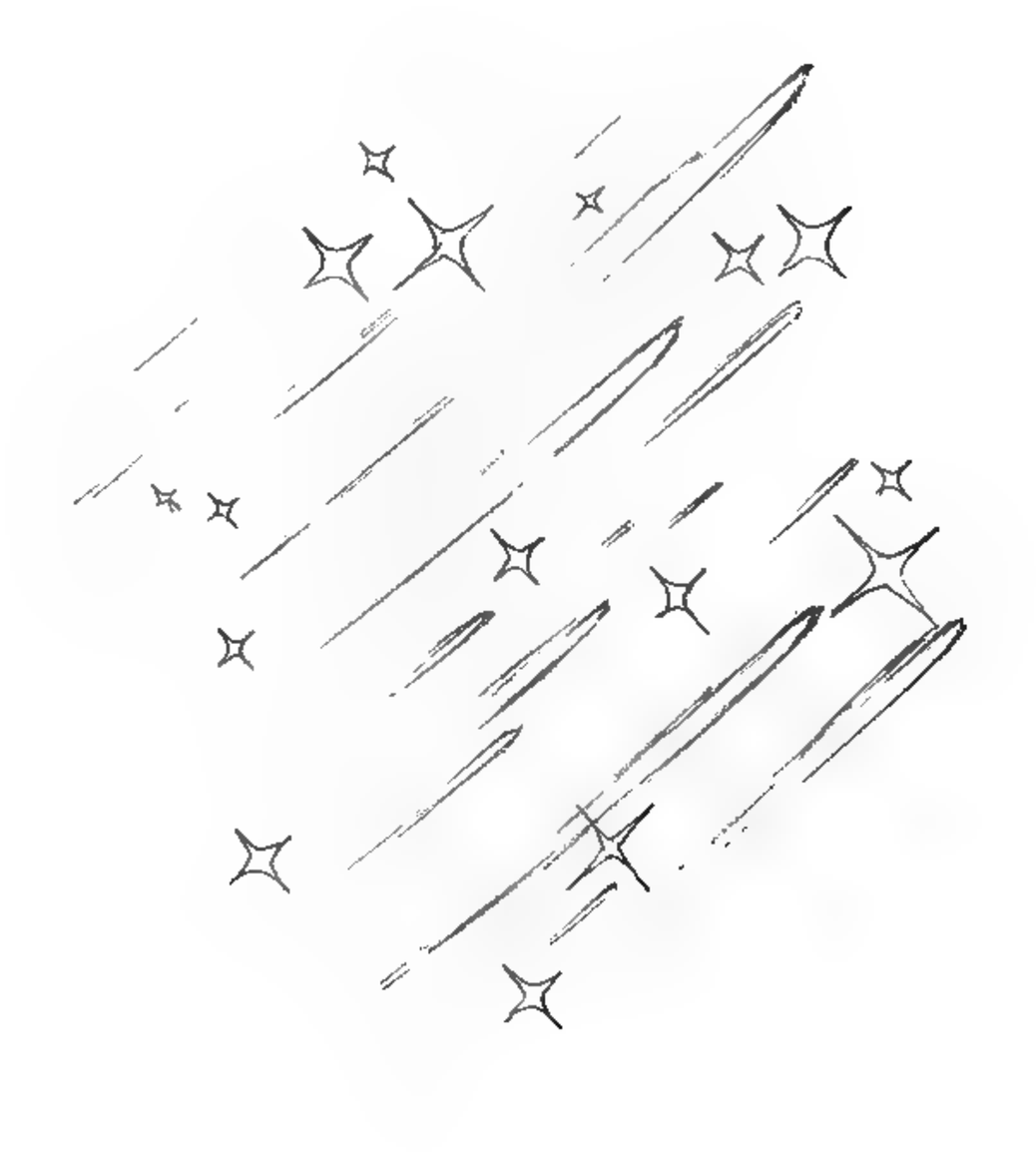
SHE'S...

...WITH RAKU...?

SHE'S IN LOVE...



WHAT...?



Chapter 212: Bye-Bye

I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU ALL THIS TIME.

I...

...DID KOSAKI JUST SAY?

WHAT...

REALLY?

...RAKU?

SHE LOVES...

JOLT

YIKES!!

CH-CH-CHITOGE?!

...

...WHAT I SAID JUST NOW?

UM... DID YOU... HAPPEN TO... OVERHEAR...

YEAH... WELL... I GOT SPOOKED WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT...

...SO I DECIDED TO COME BACK FOR NOW...

Y-Y-YOU'RE BACK!

TH-THAT WAS QUICK...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

NO... I WAS SO SCARED OF THE THUNDER I DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING ELSE.

WHAT...

WHAT YOU SAID?

THE SKY!

OH, BY THE WAY... LOOK, CHITOGE!

FORGET ABOUT IT.

IF YOU DIDN'T OVERHEAR, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

NOTH-ING...

PHEW...

RRRRMBBBB...

RRRMBBBB

OH...

AND THE METEORS...

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THE CLOUDS ALL DIS-APPEARED...

KSHHHH

KSHHHHH

THE STARS WERE OUT FOR JUST A MINUTE...

OH... THE RAIN'S BACK.

HHH

TOO BAD... I WISH WE COULD'VE SEEN IT TOGETHER...

KOSAKI'S CRUSH IS...

...RAKU.

A CRUSH.

I HAVE ONE TOO...

I...

BEFORE I MET EITHER OF THEM?

"A LONG, LONG TIME"... HOW LONG DOES SHE MEAN?

I...

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

I JUST WENT TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE.

I'M FINE.

WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY?

SO?

SO MUCH FOR OUR STARGAZING OPPOR-TUNITY!

SHEESH!

SHUT UP.

RAKU WAS PASSED OUT RIGHT AT THE MOMENT OF TRUTH.

ONODERA'S THE ONLY ONE WHO SAW THE METEOR SHOWER.

Ha ha...

YOU HAD TO BE REALLY LUCKY TO SEE IT.

YEAH... BUT WITH THE BLACKOUT, LOTS OF PEOPLE WERE TOO DISTRACTED TO NOTICE.

A NUMBER OF PEOPLE SAW THE METEOR SHOWER.

OUR TOWN ACTUALLY ENTERED THE EYE OF THE TYPHOON.

IS SOMETHING WRONG, CHITOGE?

YOU SEEM KINDA DOWN.

OH... REALLY?

NAH... I'M FINE!

I SHOULD HELP THEM CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER.

Nah, I'm fine!

Are you okay? Does it still hurt?

THAT MEANS...

KOSAKI IS IN LOVE WITH RAKU.

SO SHOULD I GIVE UP ON RAKU?

AND I WOULDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO COME BETWEEN US.

I REALLY CARE ABOUT KOSAKI.

THIS STINKS.

I'VE NEVER FELT SO STRONGLY ABOUT ANYONE.

I COULDN'T BEAR TO DO THAT.

I LOVE HIM SO MUCH.

I HAVE TO CONFESS EVERY-THING.

...ABOUT THE FACT THAT I LOVE RAKU TOO.

AND ALSO... ABOUT OVERHEARING KOSAKI YESTERDAY...

SLAM

ALL RIGHT..!

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!!

—

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

BEYOND THAT, I CAN'T PREDICT WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

IT'S NOT FAIR FOR ME TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THIS.

DUDE, YOU REALLY SCREWED UP, PASSING OUT AT THE KEY MOMENT.

WHERE ...?

—

—

RAKU'S VOICE?

I SWEAR YOU HAVE THE WEIRDEST LUCK.

HEY, RA...

WHAT ARE THEY TALK-ING ABOUT?

LOOK, I DID MY BEST, OKAY?

YOU WERE TRYING TO PROTECT ONODERA AND GOT HIT IN THE HEAD?

SOUNDS LIKE IT HAPPENED RIGHT BEFORE THE METEOR SHOWER WAS VISIBLE.

AT LEAST YOU PASSED OUT AT THE FEET OF THE WOMAN YOU LOVE.

WELL, I GUESS IT COULDA BEEN WORSE.

WHAAAAT?!

お茶

IT WOULDA BEEN THE PERFECT TIME TO CONFESS YOUR FEELINGS.

WHAT A WASTE!

I WAS UN-CONSCIOUS THE WHOLE TIME.

LIKE I SAID, I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.

DON'T BE AN IDIOT.

I'VE LIKED HER SINCE JUNIOR HIGH... IT'S NOT AS EASY AS THAT.

IF I'M GOING TO CONFESS MY FEELINGS, IT WON'T JUST BE A SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT THING.

I HAVE TO REALLY MAKE UP MY MIND TO DO IT.

...JUNIOR HIGH?

EVER SINCE...

...LOVES KOSAKI TOO?

RAKU...

REALLY?

I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT CHITOGE TOO.

BESIDES...

YEESH... YOU THINK YOU'LL EVER GET THERE?

AT LEAST BY THE TIME WE GRADUATE.

I CAN'T CONFESS MY FEELINGS UNTIL I FIGURE THAT OUT.

CHITOGE ...?

...AND THE BOY I CARE ABOUT MOST...

...IN THIS WHOLE COUNTRY...

THE GIRL I CARE ABOUT MOST...

...ARE IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER.

I...

DIIIING

DOOOONG

OH... UM...

...

HEYA.

GOOD MORN-ING.

CHATTER

CHATTER

GOOD MORNING, CHITOGE.

CHATTER

CHATTER

YOU REALLY SEEMED UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING ALL DAY YESTERDAY.

YOU OKAY?

YEAH, I'M FINE!

SORRY TO WORRY YOU!

OH... SORRY.

MY PHONE WAS OFF...AND THEN I FELL ASLEEP.

WHAT HAPPENED YESTER-DAY?

YOU TOOK OFF WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, AND YOU DIDN'T PICK UP YOUR PHONE EITHER...

SHEESH.

YOU AND ME?

WANNA WALK HOME TOGETHER TODAY?

HEY, RAKU ...

HUH ...?

YEAH... SUMMER BREAK STARTS NEXT WEEK.

IT'S REALLY SUMMER NOW!

PHEW! SURE IS HOT!!

NOT REALLY. ANNOYING AS THAT IS.

WHAT...YOU REALLY THINK I NEED TO WORRY?

SHOULDN'T YOU BE STUDYING? DON'T FORGET OUR ENTRANCE EXAMS.

FESTIVALS, FIRE-WORKS...

AND THERE'RE LOTS OF FUN EVENTS DURING SUMMER BREAK.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT KOSAKI?

WHAT?!

HEY, RAKU ...

CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

NOT THAT IT'S RARE FOR US TO WALK HOME TOGETHER, BUT...

WHAT'S COME OVER CHITOGE, ASKING ME TO WALK HOME WITH HER?

YES, I THINK SHE'S WONDER-FUL.

I FEEL SO SAFE WITH HER...

ALWAYS KIND, ALWAYS WARM...

SHE'S REALLY LOVELY, ISN'T SHE?

H-H-HOW...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

HUH?!

WELL, SURE...

WHERE'S THIS COMING FROM?

OH...

TREAT HER MORE LIKE A LADY!

YOU SHOULD APPRECIATE HER MORE!

What brought this on?!

I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU'D BETTER NOT EVER HURT HER!

HEY, I DON'T WANT TO HURT HER, EITHER.

NAH.

DID SHE SAY SOMETHING TO YOU?

ARE YOU SAYING I DON'T TREAT ONODERA WELL?

WAIT...

THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.

Have I been a jerk?

OKAY.

...

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

SEE YOU, RAKU.

ANYWAY, I HAVE AN ERRAND TO RUN NOW.

BYE-BYE.

I SHOULD'VE BEEN PAYING BETTER ATTENTION.

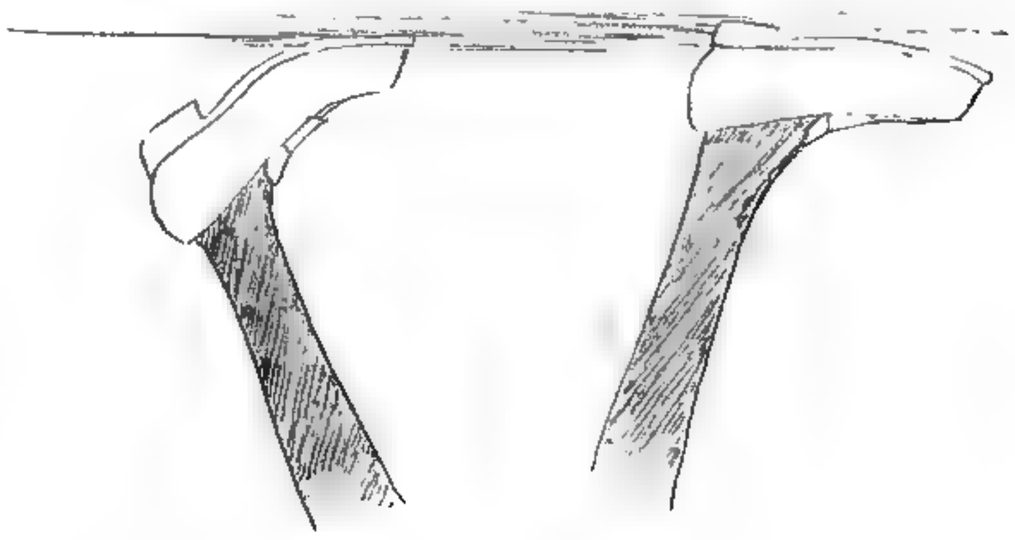
I...

...MAYBE I COULD'VE CHANGED THINGS.

IF I HAD BEEN...

...CHITOGE SHOWED UP AT SCHOOL.

THAT WAS THE LAST DAY...



TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

RAKU ICHIJOOO !!!

CHIRP CHIRP

HAVE YOU SEEN THE MISTRESS ?

HFF HFF

TSU-GUMI?

WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?

THE MISTRESS IS MISSING!!

Chapter 213: Continuation

WHEN I WENT TO WAKE HER UP, HER ROOM WAS NEAT AS A PIN...

I ONLY NOTICED THIS MORNING.

AND WHEN I LOOKED AROUND, I NOTICED THAT HER SUITCASE AND VARIOUS DAILY ITEMS WERE MISSING.

SHE ISN'T ANSWERING HER PHONE, AND NOBODY KNOWS WHERE SHE IS.

SHE SEEMED COMPLETELY NORMAL YESTERDAY...

...AT LEAST WE KNOW SHE WASN'T ABDUCTED OR ANYTHING.

WELL, IF SHE PACKED A SUIT-CASE...

DID ANYTHING HAPPEN?

WHAT ABOUT YOU, RAKU ICHIJO?!

I TALKED WITH HER YESTERDAY. I DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING UNUSUAL...

IDEAS, HUH?

THE BOSS SEEMS TO KNOW SOMETHING. HE SAID NOT TO WORRY.

BUT THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE... ANY IDEAS?!

SAME HERE.

RAKKY!! RAKKY!

SHE ASKED ME TO WALK HOME TOGETHER YESTERDAY. THAT WAS UNUSUAL...

BUT THERE WAS NO HINT THAT SHE WAS GOING TO VANISH...

NO...

I REALLY DON'T KNOW...

LOOK!

Leave of Absence

SHOOOP

THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE RIGHT NOW!!

UH, MS. YUI, YOU SHOULDN'T CALL ME RAKKY AT SCHOOL...

BIG SIS YUI...

Leave of Abs

Chitoge Ki

THE NAME!!

CHITO...

WHAAAT?!

Chitoge Kirisaki

WHAT'S THIS?

A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FORM?

OH!!

HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING, RAKKY?

OF COURSE, WE CAN'T JUST ACCEPT THE APPLICATION LIKE THIS.

I TRIED CALLING HER, BUT SHE ISN'T ANSWERING. AND HER FATHER WOULDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING EITHER.

YUI... THIS...

IT WAS IN THE SCHOOL'S MAIL THIS MORNING.

BUT IF SHE'S SUBMITTED A FORMAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE...

DISAPPEARING FOR A SHORT TIME ON A WHIM IS ONE THING...

A LEAVE OF ABSENCE?

SHOOP

WE CAN'T JUST SIT HERE!!

I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR THE MISTRESS !!

TSU-GUMI?!

I'M GOING TO CHECK EVERY PLACE I CAN THINK OF!

LET ME KNOW RIGHT AWAY IF YOU LEARN ANYTHING!

I'LL BE REACHABLE ON MY CELL.

WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?

THE MISTRESS'S WELL-BEING MATTERS WAY MORE THAN THAT!!

REMINDS ME OF WHEN MARIKA DISAPPEARED.

YES.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO? WE CAN ASK AROUND IF ANYONE'S SEEN CHITOGE...

HUH? OH... YES. BE CARE-FUL.

I APOLOGIZE, BUT I'M AFRAID I'LL BE ABSENT FOR A WHILE.

DON YUI...

SNOOP

WELL... I DID GET THE SENSE THAT SOMETHING WAS BOTHERING HER...

YOU REALLY DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT?

HEY, RAKU...YOU TWO WALKED HOME TOGETHER YESTERDAY, RIGHT?

WHAT HAPPENED?!

A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL?

CHITOGE... WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

THE SHUEI-GUMI BRAT!

Y-YOU!!

HUH?!

Where are youuu?

Mis-tress!

THANK YOU FOR STOPPING BY.

WHY, HELLO THERE, RAKU.

AIIEE!! NO!! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ...!!

YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DON'T CHA?! DON'T CHA?!

YOU'RE HER BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?!

WHERE'S THE MISTRESS, YOU LITTLE PUNK?!

JERKA JERKA

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

TSUGUMI THOUGHT YOU MIGHT...

DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS, SIR?

NO...

I DON'T KNOW HER EXACT LOCATION YET.

I'M SORRY SHE'S CAUSED YOU CONCERN.

YOU'RE HERE ABOUT CHITOGE, I EXPECT?

SIR!

THINGS TO DEAL WITH?

...

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

I EXPECT SHE'LL LET ME KNOW WHERE SHE IS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

IT SEEMS SHE HAS SOME THINGS TO DEAL WITH.

HOW-EVER...

YES, SHE'S DEFINITELY OKAY.

IN THAT CASE, I GUESS I'LL JUST TALK TO HER LATER...

SO, SHE'S OKAY?

WELL, I'M GLAD TO KNOW THAT MUCH, ANYWAY.

...RETURN TO THIS TOWN.

SHE MAY NOT EVER...

WHAT?

FOR SEVERAL DAYS...

...WE DID OUR BEST TO SEARCH FOR CHITOGE.

...WOULDN'T TELL ME MORE THAN THAT.

CHI-TOGE'S FATHER ...

WE ASKED ALL OF HER FRIENDS IF THEY'D HEARD ANYTHING.

AND CHECKED ALL THE PLACES SHE FREQUENTED ...

...AND ALL THE PLACES WE'D BEEN TOGETHER.

BUT...

...AND WE DIDN'T FIND OUT ANYTHING.

TIME WENT BY...

EVEN IF YOU ARE HER BOYFRIEND...

CLAUDE CAN'T KNOW I LET YOU IN THE MISTRESS'S ROOM.

LISTEN ...

I GET IT.

THANK YOU.

KCHAK

AND THEN CHITOGE THREW ME OUT RIGHT AWAY.

WHEN MY MEMORIES CAME BACK, I FOUND MYSELF HERE FOR SOME REASON.

Eek!! Quit snooping around!!

Huh?!

...WAS WHEN I HAD AMNESIA.

THE FIRST TIME I WAS IN THIS ROOM...

SHF

...BUT I'M SURE TSUGUMI'S ALREADY SEARCHED EVERYTHING THOROUGHLY.

STILL, IT WAS THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF...

I BEGGED THEM TO LET ME IN HERE, THINKING I MIGHT FIND A CLUE OF SOME SORT...

OR ONODERA...

YOU DIDN'T TELL TSUGUMI, EVEN...

WHERE ARE YOU, CHITOGE?

FWAP

YOU'VE GOT TO COME BACK...

WHAT DID HE MEAN, YOU MIGHT NOT COME BACK?!

Campus

WHAT'S THIS?

Campus

...IF YOU WANT.

I COULD HELP YOU WITH YOUR NOTES...

SO...

I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE READING THIS...

BUT THERE MIGHT BE A CLUE OF SOME KIND.

HAH! SHE'S MADE EXTRA NOTES IN IT OVER TIME.

FWIP FWIP

I FIGURED SHE'D THROWN IT AWAY NOW THAT SHE'S MADE LOTS OF FRIENDS.

SHE STILL HAS THIS FRIEND NOTEBOOK SHE MADE...

WOW, THIS BRINGS BACK MEMOR-IES!

FWIP

FWIP

BACK WHEN WE STARTED OUR FIRST YEAR, I TRIED SO HARD TO BE NICE...

FWIP FWIP

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I REMEMBER SHE USED TO ONLY WRITE BAD STUFF ABOUT ME.

bean sprout bean sprout bean sprout

"TODAY WAS OUR SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

"THERE'S A LOT I WANT TO WRITE...BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, I'M GLAD WE MADE UP.

"I NEVER THOUGHT I'D PLAY THE ROLE OF JULIET.

I never thought I'd play the role of Juliet.

There's a lot I want to write... but most importantly, I'm glad we made up.

I get the feeling...

...life will be fun again tomorrow.

"...LIFE WILL BE FUN AGAIN TOMORROW."

"I GET THE FEELING..."

"HE WAS TOTALLY DROOLING ALL OVER HER. WHAT AN IDIOT."

"BIG NEWS! APPARENTLY HE HAS A FIANCÉE!!

"I'M NOT USED TO IT YET, BUT I LIKE IT."

"ON OUR CLASS TRIP, WE AGREED TO CALL EACH OTHER BY OUR FIRST NAMES.

"HOW CAN I FACE HIM? I'M SO EMBARRASSED.

"BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID THAT...

"WE ALL WENT TO THE BEACH TODAY.

"IT'S PRETTY CUTE. I REALLY LOVE IT."

"TODAY WAS MY BIRTHDAY. HE GAVE ME A GIFT.

"AGH. GOING TO SLEEP."

"WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT THE KEY?

"WHAT IF IT HAD UNLOCKED...? I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT THAT..."

"BIG SURPRISE TODAY!!

"TSUGUMI TRANSFERRED TO OUR SCHOOL!

THERE'S MORE... ...

FWIP

Big surprise today!! Bean sprout thought Tsugumi was a boy...What a r

But...he

"BEAN SPROUT-!! THOUGHT TSUGUMI WAS A BOY...

"BUT...HE DOES HAVE A STREAK OF BRAVERY."

"WHAT A MORON!!

"I'M GLAD RAKU'S THE PERSON I HAVE TO PRETEND TO DATE."

...FOR ME TOO.

FWAP

IT WAS FUN...

WHY...

WHY DID YOU DISAPPEAR WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE?

WE'RE ALL WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

CHITOGE...

WHERE ARE YOU?

WHY...

...DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?

GORILLA GIRL...

COME BACK...

...BEFORE SUMMER BREAK!!

WOW... IT'S THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL...

DIIIING DOOOONG

IT'S LIKE BEFORE THEY JOINED OUR CLASS.

IT'S JUST NOT THE SAME WITHOUT THEM.

...WITHOUT MARIKA AND SEISHIRO AND KIRISAKI AROUND...

IT'S BEEN KINDA LONELY...

ICHIJO... ...

SOUNDS GOOD!

NOW THAT IT'S SUMMER BREAK, WE'LL HAVE MORE TIME TO LOOK FOR CHITOGE.

LET'S TALK AFTER THE CLOSING CEREMONY TODAY.

CAN WE TALK A MINUTE?

HEY, ICHIJO...

...SKIP OUT...

...ON THE CLOSING CEREMONY?

WHAT IF YOU AND I...

HUH...?

...

Where does Tsugumi think Chitoge is? Find out at the end of the next chapter!

HUH?

BUT IT'S TIME FOR THE CLOSING CEREMONY!

CHATTER

I KNOW. SORRY. GO ON AHEAD, OKAY?

UH...UM... R-R-RURI!

I'M JUST GOING TO RUN TO THE BATHROOM!

CHATTER

CHATTER

HUH?

OH... OKAY...

HEY, SHU...I'M GOING TO THE BATHROOM...

GO ON AHEAD... I'LL CATCH UP.

HUH?

OH... OKAY... FEEL BETTER...

YEAH. I THINK I'LL GO TO THE NURSE!

IN FACT... MAYBE I SHOULD GO TO THE NURSE... OOOOOW...

WELL... I'M HAVING SOME STOMACH PAINS... I MIGHT BE A WHILE...

HUH ?!

MAYBE I'LL GO WITH YOU...

Chapter-214:-Place

??

RATTLE

PHEW!
THAT WAS
INTENSE!

YEAH.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO APOLOGIZE LIKE CRAZY IF THAT HAPPENS.

WE'LL GET IN TROUBLE IF THEY FIND US.

ME NEITHER.

I'VE NEVER SKIPPED SCHOOL OR A CLASS OR ANYTHING... THAT WAS SCARY!

I WAS SO NERVOUS! I WAS AFRAID SOMEONE WOULD CATCH US...

I WAS SURPRISED TOO...

...THAT YOU'D PROPOSE SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

YOU'RE SO RESPON-SIBLE AND ALL.

HONESTLY, I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY NO.

YES...

YOU'RE RIGHT.

I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU DOING THIS OTHERWISE ...

THERE'S SOME REASON, ISN'T THERE?

YOU'VE SEEMED SO UNHAPPY RECENTLY. I REALLY WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT.

AFTER THE ASSEMBLY, WE'RE ALL MEETING AS A GROUP, RIGHT?

...TO GET SOME TIME TO TALK, JUST THE TWO OF US.

IT FELT LIKE THE ONLY WAY...

YES...OF COURSE...

I DIDN'T HAVE ANY EXPECTATIONS... NONE!!

ABOUT CHITOGE ...

THE WAY THINGS ARE, IT'S HARD TO KNOW ANYTHING...

I DON'T KNOW.

DO YOU THINK SHE WAS STRUG-GLING WITH SOME-THING?

I WONDER ...

...WHY SHE DISAPPEARED ...

WE'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER... EVER SINCE CHITOGE GOT TO JAPAN.

YES.

YOU TWO WERE REALLY CLOSE, WEREN'T YOU?

IF ONLY I'D REALIZED...

...I FAILED TO NOTICE IT.

IF SOMETHING WAS BOTHERING HER...

CHITOGE LEFT OF HER OWN FREE WILL.

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE.

LIKE WHAT?

MAYBE IT WAS SOMETHING SHE COULDN'T TALK ABOUT...?

I REALLY THINK YOU'RE BLAMING YOURSELF TOO MUCH.

IF SOMETHING WAS REALLY UPSETTING HER, WOULDN'T SHE HAVE TALKED TO ONE OF US ABOUT IT?

YEAH.

YOU WERE THE LAST TO SEE HER, WEREN'T YOU, ICHIJO?

WELL ...

WE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT ANYTHING MUCH...

AFTER WE PARTED, SHE SENT TSUGUMI A MESSAGE: "I'M WORN OUT, SO I'M GOING TO BED. PLEASE DON'T WAKE ME."

BUT I WAS THE LAST ONE TO SEE HER IN PERSON.

WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?

YEAH.

I WAS SURPRISED TOO. ALL OF A SUDDEN, SHE ASKED ME HOW I FELT ABOUT YOU.

AND SHE SAID SHE THOUGHT YOU WERE WONDERFUL...

OH!

COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE TALKED A LOT ABOUT YOU, ONODERA.

ABOUT ME?

SHE TOLD ICHIJO NOT TO HURT ME?

WHY WOULD SHE SAY THAT?

SHE CARES ABOUT YOU. SHE SPOKE REALLY HIGHLY OF YOU.

SHE SAID YOU WERE A RARE FIND, AND THAT I'D BETTER NOT EVER HURT YOU...

...

CHITOGE SAID THAT?

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

NO... I WAS SO SCARED OF THE THUNDER I DIDN'T NOTICING ANYTHING ELSE.

WHAT ... WHAT YOU SAID?

CLEARLY, HE DOESN'T SEE ME AS A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX.

HE TOLD ME I WAS A CLOSE FRIEND.

ME HAVE FEELINGS FOR THAT STUPID BEAN SPROUT?!

NO WAY!!

HEYA!

DARLING!

CHITOGE...

DON'T TELL ME...

DID SHE OVERHEAR ME AFTER ALL?

COULD IT BE?

IF SO... MAYBE THAT'S WHY CHITOGE DISAPPEARED...

CHITOGE'S CRUSH IS...

KCHIK

IT'S MY PHONE.

MAYBE IT'S SHU...

BZZZZ BZZZZ

JOLT!

!!

IT'S FROM CHITOGE'S DAD!!

HELLO, RAKU. I'M SORRY IT'S TAKEN SO LONG TO GET BACK TO YOU.

I FINALLY FOUND OUT CHITOGE'S WHERE-ABOUTS...

AND I PROMISED TO SHARE THAT INFORMATION WITH YOU.

BEEP

HELLO?

...

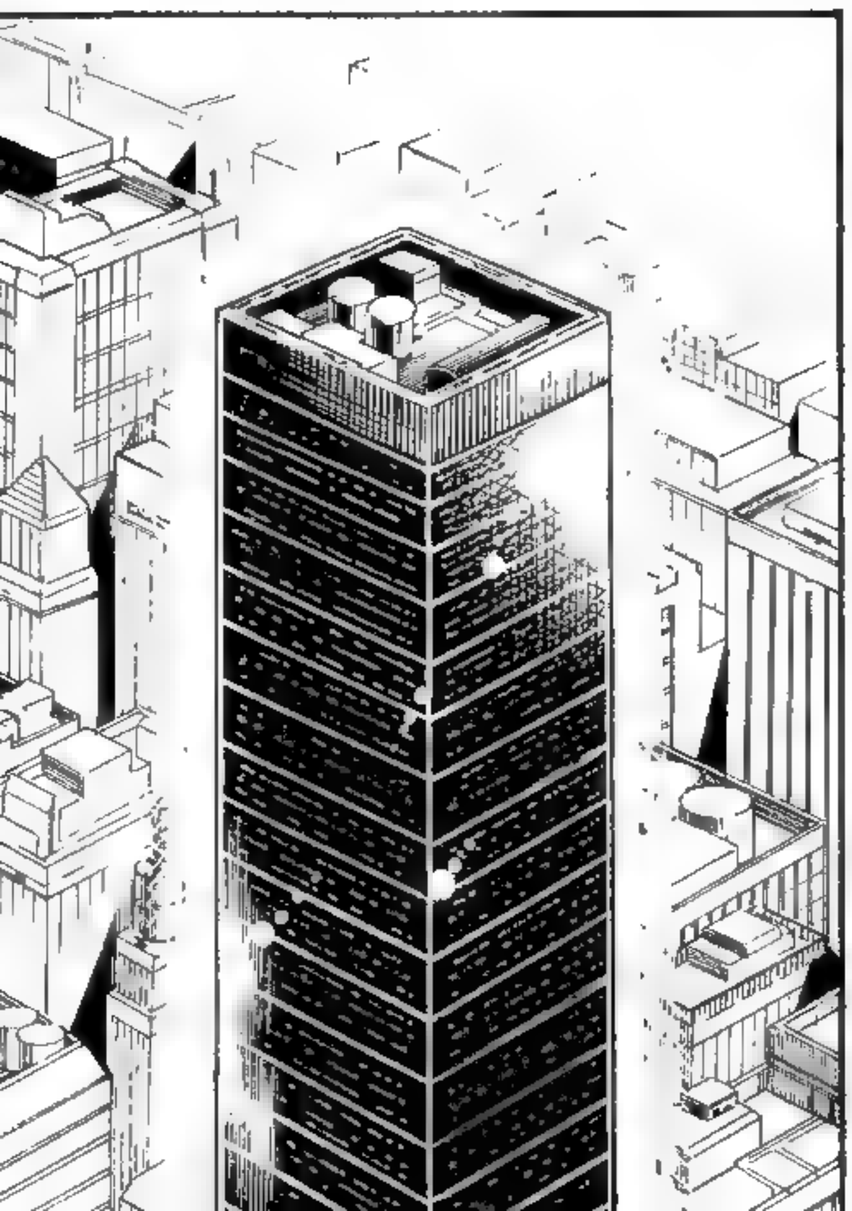
...I WON'T STAND IN YOUR WAY.

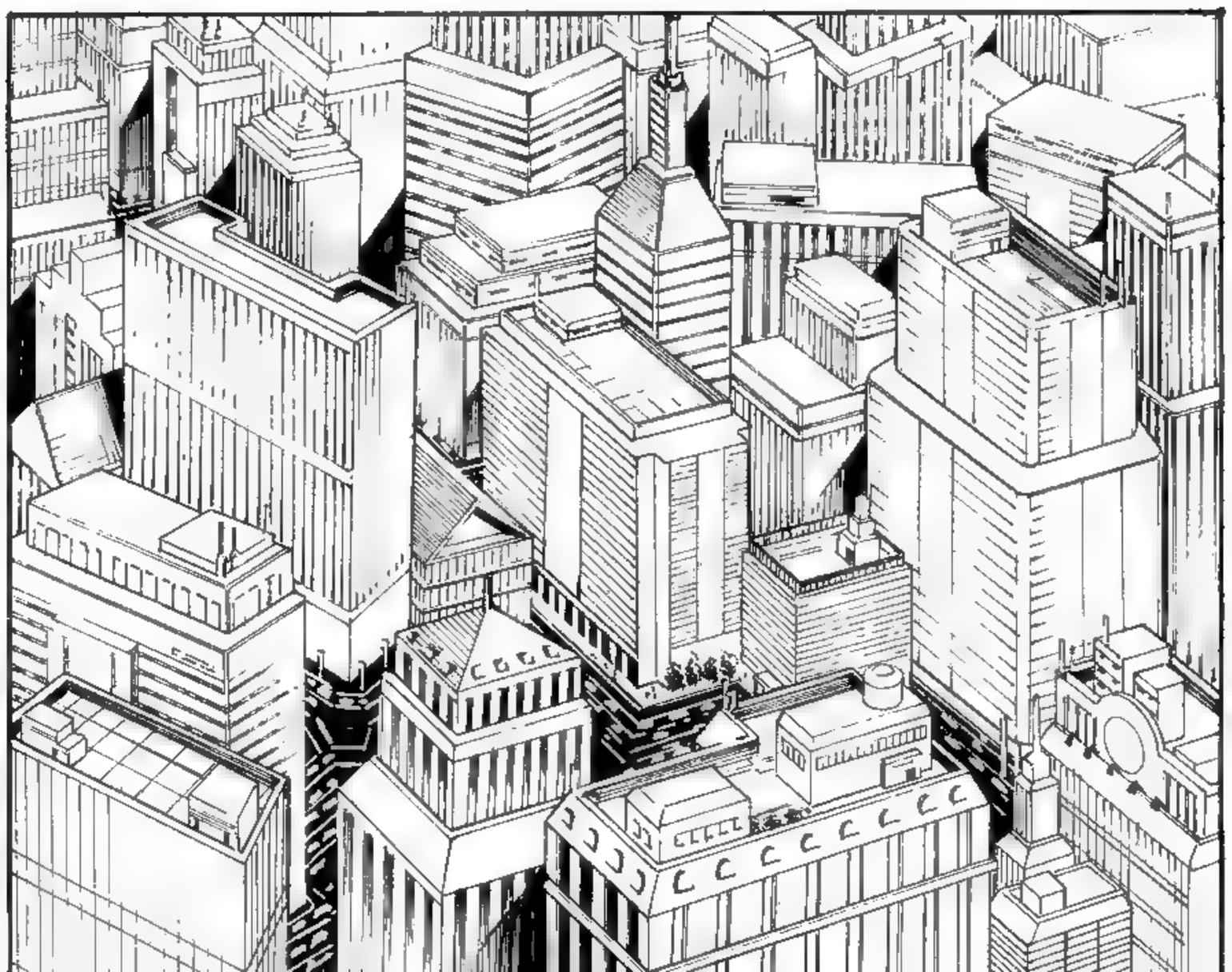
BUT IF YOU DECIDE TO GO ANYWAY ...

...THAT I CAN'T GUARANTEE SHE'LL WANT TO SEE YOU.

YOU MUST UNDER-STAND...

CHITOGE IS IN...





TAK

TAK

TAK

P-LOP

SET IT DOWN THERE.

THANK YOU.

I FINISHED ANALYZING AND INPUTTING THE DATA YOU REQUESTED.

HERE, MOM.

WHOA...

THAT'S MADAME FLOWER'S DAUGHTER?

WOW!

RIGHT AWAY.

PLEASE CONFIRM THE CLIENT'S SPECIFICATIONS TOO.

USING THIS REFERENCE MATERIAL, I NEED YOU TO CATEGORIZE AND EVALUATE THIS SUMMARY CONTENT.

HERE'S YOUR NEXT TASK.

WHISPER

WHISPER

SHE MUST GET IT FROM HER MOM...

SHE DOES THREE DAYS' WORTH OF WORK IN A FEW HOURS.

PHEW...

WONDER WHAT EVERYONE'S DOING RIGHT NOW.

THEY'RE PROBABLY UPSET AT ME...

...FOR LEAVING WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE...

THANK YOU.

I APPRECIATE YOUR ACCOMMO-DATING MY SUDDEN ARRIVAL.

WHY...I'M TEMPTED TO MAKE YOU MY ASSISTANT.

YOU'RE PICKING UP THE WORK VERY QUICKLY.

KREAK

TIME FOR A LITTLE BREAK.

WILL YOU MAKE COFFEE?

SO?

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?

BUT YOU'VE BEEN EARNING YOUR KEEP.

IF YOU JUST WANTED TO MOPE AROUND AND NOT WORK, I MIGHT HAVE TURNED YOU AWAY.

DON'T MENTION IT.

BESIDES, I'M GLAD TO HAVE TIME WITH YOU.

I'M STILL...

...TRYING TO FIGURE THAT OUT.

IF YOU COULD LET ME STAY A BIT LONGER...

ALSO...

...I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE SETTLED ON A CAREER YOU WANT TO PURSUE?

TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED TO THINK.

WE WOMEN HAVE TO DEAL WITH MATTERS OF THE HEART OUR WHOLE LIVES.

...AND THAT HE'D BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU ON BOARD.

HE SAID YOU HAD POTENTIAL...

DO YOU REMEMBER THE PERSON I INTRODUCED YOU TO YESTERDAY?

I CAN GIVE YOU GUIDANCE...

...BUT FUNDAMENTALLY I RESPECT YOUR RIGHT TO DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.

YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO DECIDE...

WHETHER YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO WHERE YOU WERE OR MOVE FORWARD WITH SOMETHING NEW.

WHETHER TO GO BACK...

...OR MOVE FORWARD...

...MOM.

THANK YOU...

KNOWING THAT RAKU AND KOSAKI HAVE FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER...I DON'T WANT TO GET IN THE WAY.

I CAN'T GO BACK.

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT LOTS AND LOTS...

AND I WANT TO BE HAPPY FOR THEM...

BUT I CAN'T.

I REALLY DO LOVE RAKU.

BUT I ALSO LOVE KOSAKI.

I JUST COULDN'T DO THAT...

COULD I GO TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY WITH A SMILE ON MY FACE IF THEY WERE TOGETHER?

I THINK MAYBE SHE DID.

I WONDER IF MARIKA KNEW...!!

...THAT THEY BOTH LIKED EACH OTHER!!

SHE KNEW IT, AND SHE STILL DIDN'T GIVE UP ON RAKU.

KCHAK

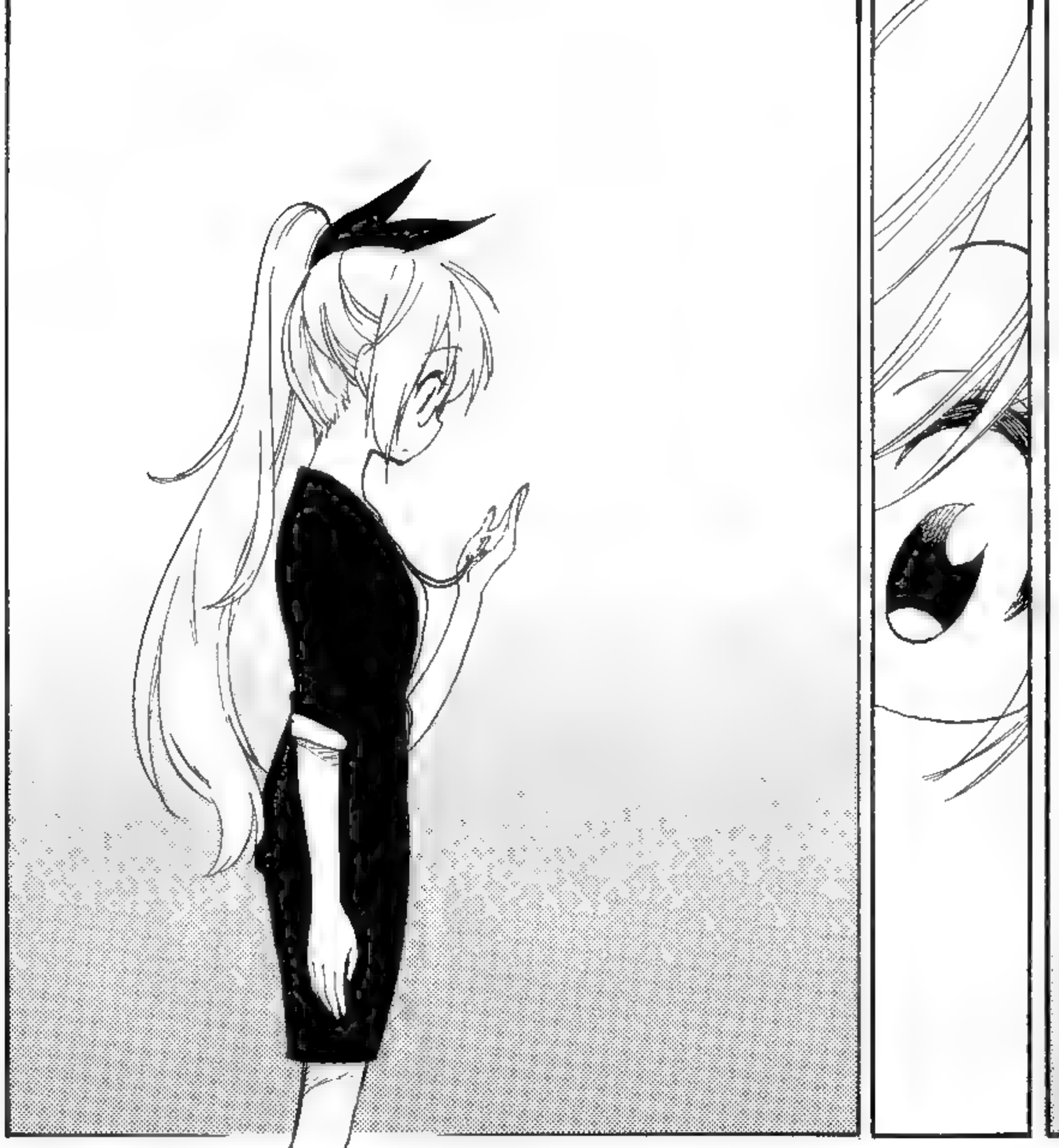
I'M SORRY, MARIKA.

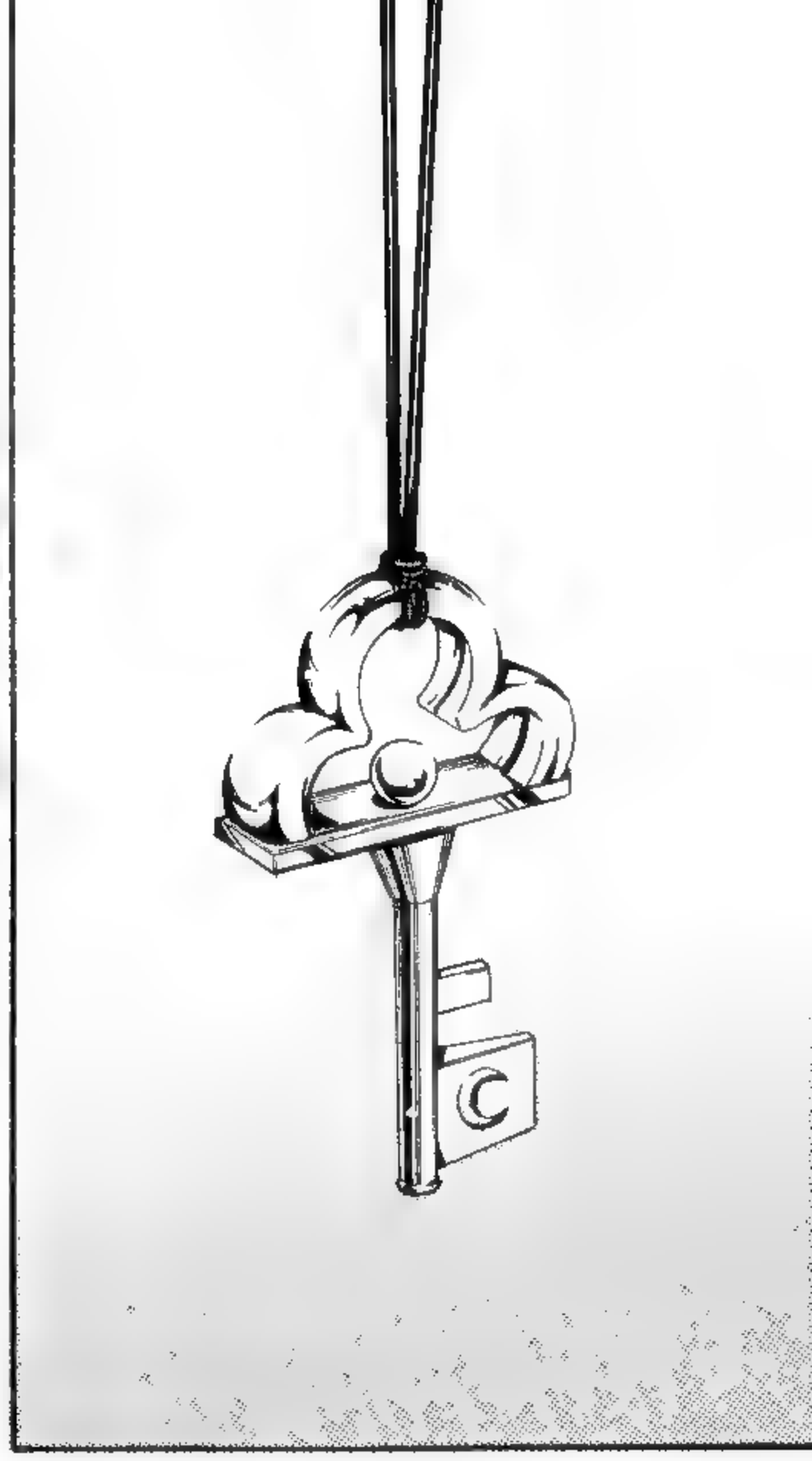
I... I'M NOT AS STRONG AS YOU.

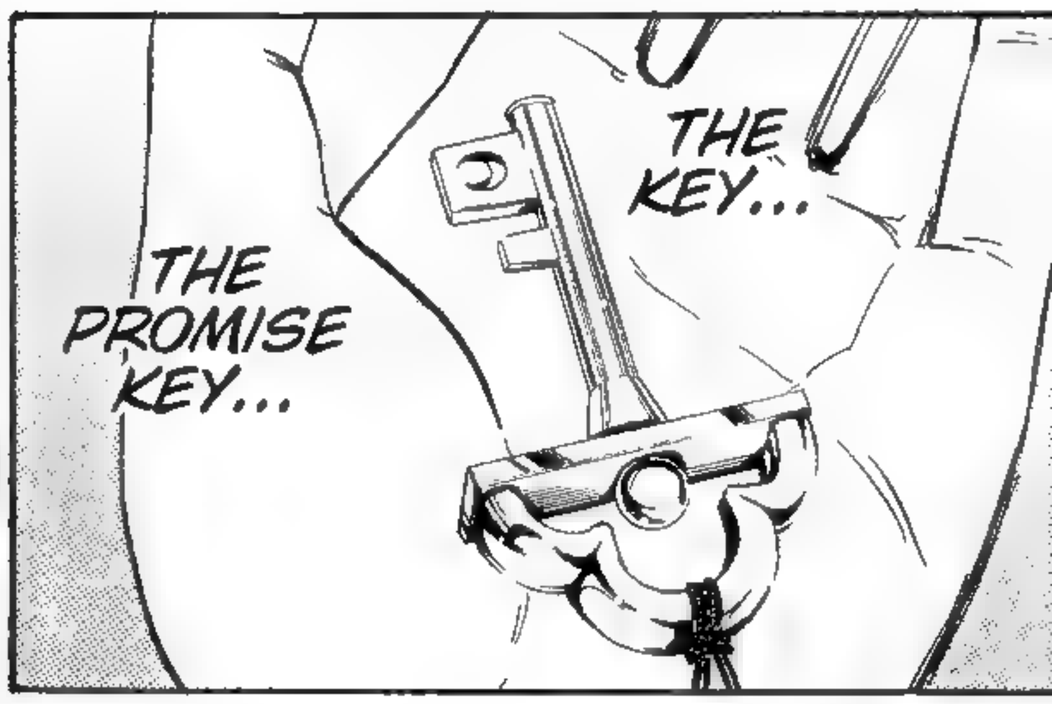
TINK

IF YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO CHANGE HOW RAKU FELT, I CERTAINLY COULDN'T...

RAKU AND KOSAKI ARE SO PURE♪



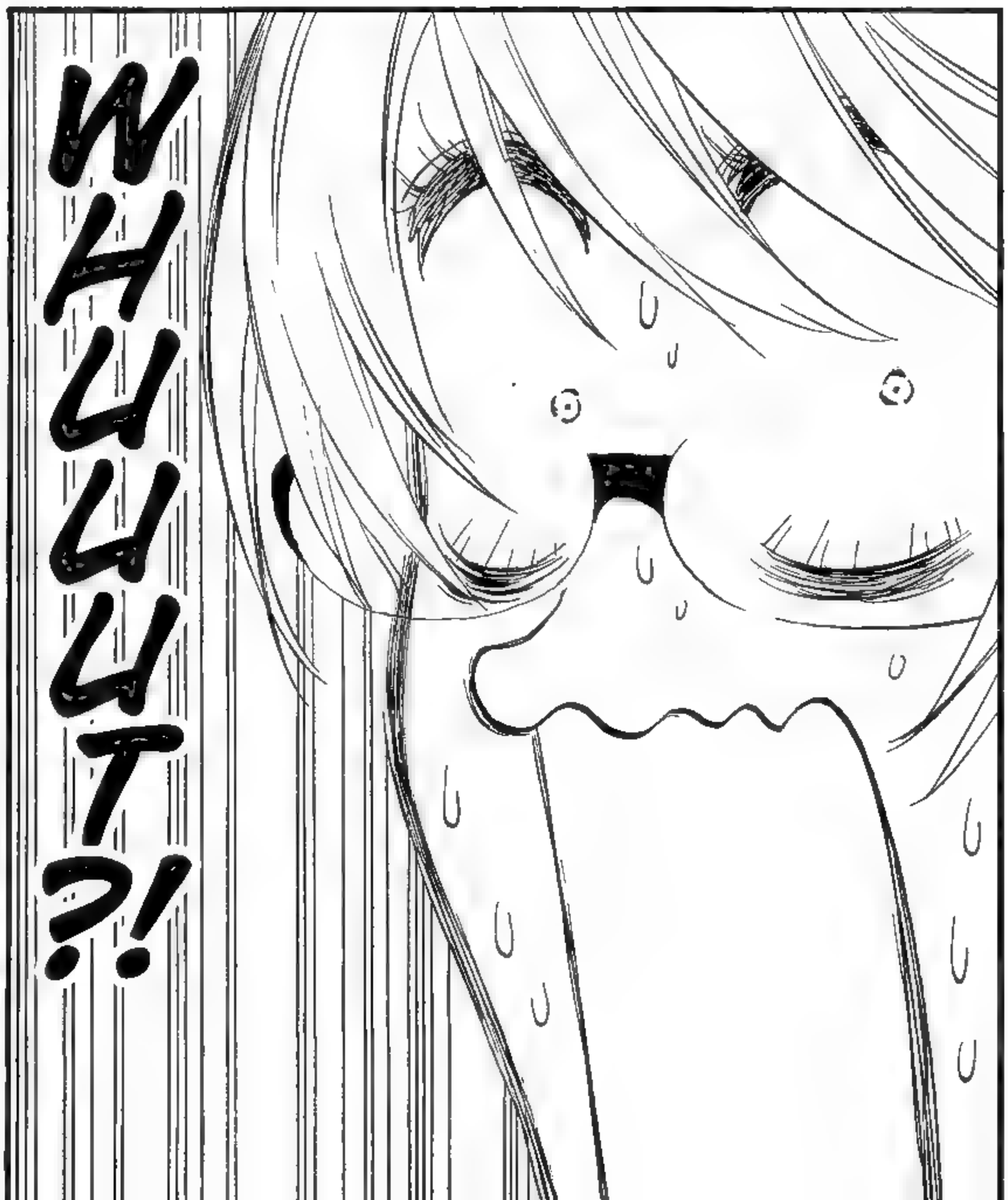




...THAT WOULD MAKE ME A LITTLE BIT MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM...

I WONDER IF...

IF I WAS RAKU'S PROMISE GIRL...


WHAT?!

How do I look?
Everything starts with image.

CHITOGE IS IN NEW YORK.

Chapter 215: Feelings

WILL YOU GO ANYWAY?

BUT I'M NOT SURE IF SHE'S WILLING TO SEE YOU...

THAT'S WHERE YOU CAN FIND THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF HANA'S CONGLOM-ERATE.

SO I'LL START THERE.

...BUT I WON'T KNOW UNLESS I GO.

YES.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S THINKING OR FEELING...

BEEP

...

I'LL KEEP YOU ALL POSTED.

IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE. FOR NOW, I'LL GO AND TRY TO TALK WITH HER.

ANYWAY, WE KNOW WHERE SHE IS NOW.

STILL, THIS TIME WE WON'T ALL BE ABLE TO GO.

NO WONDER WE COULDN'T FIND HER IN JAPAN.

CHITOGE'S WITH HER MOTHER.

ICHIJO...!

I...

OH, RIGHT...

BETTER TELL TSUGUMI TOO...

I'M COMING TOO!

PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.

I'LL LET HER KNOW YOU'RE HERE.

I'M OKAY.

IT'S REALLY HOT HERE!

YOU OKAY, ONODERA?

NOT TOO TIRED?

IT FEELS IMPORTANT.

I WANT TO TALK TO CHITOGE FACE-TO-FACE.

NO, I WANTED TO!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALONG...

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

...

YEAH ...!

I SURE HOPE WE GET TO TALK WITH CHITOGE!

IT WAS GREAT OF SHU AND THE OTHERS TO PITCH IN, BUT WE STILL CAN ONLY AFFORD TO STAY ONE DAY.

YEAH.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?!

W-W-WHA...

BUT HOW DID THEY FIND ME?

I DIDN'T EVEN TELL TSUGUMI...!

WELL, DUH.

THEY'RE LOOKING FOR ME.

WHY ON EARTH...

IT'S REALLY RAKU AND KOSAKI?!

I'M NOT DREAMING, AM I?!

I'M SO STUPID!

I KNOW IT'S WRONG...

BUT THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT'S HAPPY TO SEE THEM.

I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE...!

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

HOW CAN I EVEN FACE THEM?!

HOW CAN I POSSIBLY EXPLAIN WHY I LEFT?!

AAAUGH!! BUT I CAN'T SEE THEM!!

...??

WONDER WHAT'S COME OVER HER...

from : Chitoge

Sorry, Mom! I'm going to step out for a break!!

BZZ BZZ!

BZZ BZZ!

...

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

EX-CUSE ME, MA'AM ...

THERE ARE VISITORS HERE FOR MISS CHITOGE...

PHEW...

Your friends came by. I didn't tell them anything. They'll be in New York for the rest of the day. Do whatever you need to do.

Hana

NEW YORK

I CAN'T FACE THEM...

GUESS I'D BETTER JUST PASS THE TIME...

OKAY... I RAN AWAY... BUT NOW WHAT?

THEY'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY I DISAPPEARED ALL OF A SUDDEN.

THEY MUST BE UPSET WITH ME...

I WONDER HOW THEY FEEL.

ARE THEY WORRIED ABOUT ME? OR ANGRY?

NEW YORK IS A BIG PLACE. THERE'S NO WAY I'LL RUN INTO THEM...

GUESS I'LL JUST WANDER AROUND TODAY AND AVOID THE OFFICE.

SIGH...

MM...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

BUT... BUT...

I...

I GUESS ALL WE CAN DO IS SEARCH.

HANA SAID SHE WAS NEARBY.

WONDER WHERE CHITOGE COULD BE?

I SHOULDN'T HAVE CHOSEN A CAFÉ NEAR THE OFFICE!!

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!! I WAS WAY TOO CARELESS!!

W-W-WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?!

BLRFF!!

BETTER GET FARTHER AWAY!!

SHFF

I'M FARTHER AWAY, AND THERE'RE TONS OF PEOPLE. I SHOULD BE SAFE.

PHEW...

WELL, NOW I'M ON A BIG AVENUE.

TMP TMP

304 KLEIN'S

HM... MAYBE AROUND HERE?

WHERE D'YOU THINK SHE'D GO?

OMG OMG OMG!! I'VE GOTTA GET AWAY FROM THEM!!

?

WHAT'RE THEY DOING HERE?!

HURRY?!

THIS IS WAY TOO RANDOM!!

ALL RIGHT... IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...

WHAT ARE THEY, BLOOD-HOUNDS?!

I'M DEFINITELY SAFE OUT HERE.

PHEW...

IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY. I'VE JUST GOT TO GET AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE.

I'VE WALKED THREE HOURS FROM THE OFFICE. THE CHANCES OF THEM FINDING ME OUT HERE ARE NIL.

MAYBE I DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY TO BATTERY PARK...

MAYBE WE SHOULD HEAD BACK...

WE MUST BE TOO FAR OUT.

WHAT SHOULD I EAT?

SHEESH... I'M GETTING HUNGRY.

TAK

TAK

OH!

BAM

WAIT !!

HEY!! COME BACK HERE!!

CHITOGE ?!

SHOOP

OH!

VOOSH!!

CHITOGE!

LET'S TALK!

HFF

HFF

WAIT UP, CHITOGE!!

FAST AS EVER, I SEE!

YEESH!

TAK TAK TAK

HEY!!

TAK

HFF

...??

...??

HFF

VOOSH!

I DON'T GET IT. BUT WE'VE COME ALL THIS WAY. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!

ZOOSH

DOES SHE REALLY NOT WANT TO SEE US THAT MUCH?!

AS SOON AS SHE SAW US, SHE SPRINTED AWAY!

TURN A CORNER AND HIDE!

SECRET TACTIC:

WAIT UP!!

HFF

ANYWAY... I'D BETTER GET SOME MORE DISTANCE AGAIN...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE LOOKING FOR ME.

IT'S WAY TOO CRAZY TO BE A COINCI-DENCE.

WHERE ARE YOU?!

KA

OH!

BAM

(SECOND TIME)

HFF

HFF

IT'S NO USE.

I'LL NEVER CATCH HER...

VOOSH

OH!

WAIT...

I...

I LIKE ICHIJO!

GASP!

I HAVE FOR A LONG TIME.

THE OTHER DAY...

DURING THE METEOR SHOWER ...

YOU OVERHEARD ME, DIDN'T YOU?

IS ICHIJO THE PERSON YOU LIKE TOO?

IS THAT WHY...?

TELL ME...

...IF THAT'S WHY...

WHAT...

...ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ME?

LIKE THAT BEAN SPROUT?

WHAT ARE YOU, CRAZY?

I TOLD YOU BEFORE ...

OUR RELATIONSHIP IS MAKE-BELIEVE. THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO IT.

WE FIGHT ALL THE TIME. AND WE DON'T AGREE ON ANYTHING...

DON'T RUN AWAY!

VOOSH!

I'M SORRY.

"DON'T RUN AWAY!"

SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT RAKU LIKES HER...

SHE DOESN'T KNOW.

DID SHE MEAN... NOT TO GIVE UP?

CONFESSING MY FEELINGS... KNOWING I'M GOING TO GET REJECTED... GET HURT...

BUT I'M SCARED.

GULP...

I KNOW I SHOULD JUST TELL THEM THE TRUTH.

FWFF

I KNOW... I KNOW I CAN'T LEAVE THINGS LIKE THIS.

HM...

IF I WAS RAKU'S PROMISE GIRL...

JING

HI, MOM.

KCHAK

YOU DIDN'T EVEN SAY HELLO!

THERE YOU ARE!

CHITOGE? ARE YOU THERE?

TOK! TOK!

WHAT'S THAT?

HM?

YES.

THERE'VE BEEN A NUMBER OF HINTS, BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO MADE THE PROMISE.

AND YOU KNOW HIS PENDANT WAS IN THE STORYBOOK?

INTER-ESTING... I NEVER KNEW THAT STORY.

HM...

I'm just curious, is all.

OF COURSE, RAKU ALREADY SAID IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE WHO IT WAS. SO EVEN IF IT WAS ME, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.

PERHAPS SHE'LL HAVE A HINT FOR YOU.

WHAT ...?

...TO MEET THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK?

WELL... WOULD YOU LIKE...

...ICHIJO'S MOTHER.

THAT BOOK WAS WRITTEN BY...

What's it to you?!
I'm one of the heroines of this story!

...IS RAKU'S MOTHER?!

THE AUTHOR OF THE PICTURE BOOK...

Chapter 216: The Truth

WHY... SHE WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE US THE BOOK!

HOW DO I KNOW?

AND HOW DO YOU KNOW?!

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

WHAAAAT?!

The same class, even.

WE WERE ALL IN THE SAME GRADE.

KOSAKI'S AND MARIKA'S MOTHERS DID TOO.

ACTU-ALLY ...

HIS MOTHER AND I WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER.

DIDN'T I EVER TELL YOU?

WHAAAAT?!

For real?!

...

PERHAPS YOU'LL DISCOVER SOME KIND OF CLUE.

ANYWAY, IF YOU WANT TO MEET HER, I CAN ARRANGE IT.

OH...I DIDN'T REALIZE.

YOU'VE NEVER TOLD ME THAT BEFORE !!

Even Marika's mother?!

WAIT A SEC...

HUH?!

I GUESS RAKU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS EITHER.

WHAT A SURPRISE! RAKU'S MOTHER WROTE THE BOOK, AND OUR MOTHERS WERE SCHOOLMATES...

...DOES THAT MAKE ME THE ONE?

IF MY MOM GOT THE BOOK FROM RAKU'S MOTHER...

RAKU SAID...

...HE FIRST MET HIS PROMISE GIRL ON A HILL, AND SHE WAS READING THE PICTURE BOOK.

SO I MUST'VE GIVEN IT TO KOSAKI.

AND KOSAKI'S MOTHER SAID IT HAD BEEN A GIFT.

THE BOOK WAS AT KOSAKI'S HOUSE.

NO...I CAN'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE.

DO YOU WANT TO MEET HER?

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

DID I MEET KOSAKI BEFORE RAKU AND GIVE HER THE BOOK?

YES.

I DO!

SHAAAAA

WELL...

WE WENT OVER THERE FOR NOTHING.

STUPID CHITOGE. DOESN'T SHE REALIZE HOW WORRIED WE'VE BEEN?

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO FLY OUT THERE AGAIN.

WE FLEW ALL THE WAY OVER TO THE U.S., AND ALL WE DID WAS CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HER.

OH...WELL, THAT'S LIFE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

HUH?!

I'M SORRY, KOSAKI.

YOU DIDN'T EVEN GET TO TALK WITH HER.

I'M SORRY.

CHITOGE LOVES RAKU...

IT MUST BE TRUE.

I WAS ALREADY PRETTY SURE.

THAT'S DEFINITELY HARD...

WE LIKE THE SAME GUY.

...AN AWFUL LOT, IF SHE CAN'T EVEN FACE ME.

SHE MUST LIKE HIM...

THIS IS AWFUL.

WHY DID SHE RUN AWAY?

I DON'T WANT HER TO SACRIFICE HER FEELINGS FOR ME.

COME ON, CHITOGE! I WANT TO KNOW!

IS THERE SOME REASON SHE RAN AWAY FROM THAT?

I'M SURE CHITOGE FEELS THAT WAY TOO...

IF ONE OF US ENDS UP WITH RAKU, IT SHOULD HAPPEN BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING.

OTHER-WISE...

...AND TALK ABOUT WHAT WE SHOULD DO.

TO SEE HER FACE-TO-FACE...

I NEED TO TALK WITH HER AGAIN...

SOMETHING MUST BE BOTHERING HER.

I'M SURE SHE'LL COME BACK.

BUT LET'S HAVE FAITH IN HER.

LET'S WAIT...

...A BIT LONGER.

...

YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT.

I'M SURE SHE'LL SEE US EVENTUALLY.

LET'S JUST WAIT...

OKAY?

...THEN...

...CHITOGE DECIDES NOT TO COME BACK TO JAPAN...

IF...

SQUEEZE

?!

JOLT

I'M...

...NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

HUH?

I'LL ALWAYS, ALWAYS BE THERE.

SO...

ONO-DERA... WHAT'S UP?

...

SEE YOU, RAKU!

IF YOU HEAR FROM CHITOGE, LET ME KNOW...

SHP

NOTH-ING.

NOTH-ING'S UP.

TUNK

TUNKITY TUNKITY TUNKITY

FWOOO...

HAAA...

TOK TOK

KCHAK

ARE YOU...

...RAKU'S MOTHER?

OH... HELLO!

I'M CHITOGE KIRISAKI... MY MOTHER IS HANA KIRISAKI!

UOM-2S!

IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME.

IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU, CHITOGE.

TIME CERTAINLY FLIES!

YOU'VE REALLY GROWN UP!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS!

SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL!

SO THIS IS RAKU'S MOTHER...

AND SHE HAS A VERY UNIQUE VIBE.

IT WAS THE FIRST BOOK I EVER WROTE.

...BACK WHEN I WAS STILL A STUDENT.

I WROTE IT...

YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PICTURE BOOK?

FROM WHAT HANA TOLD ME...

I'VE NEVER SPOKEN TO RAKU MUCH ABOUT MY WORK.

!

REALLY? RAKU NEVER TOLD ME THAT!

I TRAVEL THE WORLD AND WRITE CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

IT'S HOW I MAKE A LIVING NOW.

WOW... SHE'S AMAZING... BUT IN A DIFFERENT WAY FROM MY MOTHER.

I ALMOST NEVER GO HOME THESE DAYS.

I'VE BEEN ON THE ROAD EVER SINCE RAKU FINISHED JUNIOR HIGH AND WAS OLD ENOUGH TO RUN THE HOUSEHOLD.

I WANTED TO WRITE A HAPPIER ENDING.

IN THAT PLAY...

...THE TWO LOVERS DIE TRAGICALLY AT THE END, RIGHT?

...WAS ROMEO AND JULIET.

THE ORIGINAL INSPIRATION FOR THE STORY...

BUT SOMEHOW THE BOOK WOUND UP IN RAKU'S HANDS...

AND HE CHANGED THE ENDING.

IN THE END, THE PRINCE DIES, BUT HE GOES ON TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER IN HEAVEN.

YOU DON'T REMEMBER HOW THE BOOK ENDS, DO YOU, CHITOGE?

OF COURSE, IT'S NICE FOR THEM TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

CHILDREN ARE SO PURE.

IT WAS QUITE CHARMING, ACTUALLY, THE ENDING HE FORCED ON THE STORY.

HE SHOWED IT TO ME.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER TOGETHER.

SHE'S A BIT HARD TO RELATE TO...

ALL THANKS TO RAKU.

AND MY BOOKS HAVE DONE WELL AS A RESULT.

SINCE THEN, I'VE ALWAYS GIVEN MY STORIES HAPPY ENDINGS.

These are my most popular titles.

IT WASN'T LEGIBLE ON THE COPY WE FOUND...

BY THE WAY, WHAT WAS THE TITLE OF THE BOOK?

.....

OH?

...

OH...

??

BASHFUL?

I'M A BIT BASHFUL ABOUT IT.

HEH HEH... SORRY.

!

YES! WE LOOKED IT UP!

IT'S POLISH!

...WHAT LANGUAGE "ZAWSZE" IS FROM?

DO YOU KNOW...

THE TITLE OF THE BOOK IS...

...ZAWSZE IN LOVE.

It's that simple.

IN THE STORY...

...THERE IS A LOCK AND A KEY, REMEMBER?

HA HA... LET ME EXPLAIN.

I ALWAYS WONDERED WHY YOU COMBINED THEM LIKE THAT.

BUT THE "IN LOVE" PART IS IN ENGLISH...

...IN A LEGEND ABOUT THE TUMSKI BRIDGE IN POLAND.

BUT I FIRST HEARD OF THE PRACTICE...

ACTUALLY, LOCKS AND KEYS ARE USED BY LOVERS PLEDGING THEMSELVES TO EACH OTHER IN MANY CULTURES.

AND THEN...

...I REALIZED I WANTED TO USE A POLISH WORD TOO.

I USED AN UNFAMILIAR TRANSLATION PROGRAM ON MY COMPUTER.

AND IT CAME UP WITH...

I LOVED THAT STORY...

...SO I FEATURED IT IN MY BOOK.

IT'S ALSO KNOWN AS "THE BRIDGE OF LOVE."

ACCORDING TO LEGEND, IF A COUPLE IN LOVE WRITES THEIR NAMES ON A LOCK, FASTENS IT TO THE BRIDGE AND THROWS THE KEY INTO THE RIVER, THEY WILL REMAIN FOREVER UNITED.

Japanese

愛を永遠に

translate

Polish

Zawsze in Love

YES. IT WAS JUST A MISTRANS-LATION.

TRANSLATION SOFTWARE WAS PRETTY PRIMITIVE IN THOSE DAYS.

SO...

I ONLY REALIZED THE MISTAKE AFTER THE BOOK WAS FINISHED.

WHEN HANA TOLD ME, I WAS SO EMBARRASSED I ERASED THE TITLE MYSELF.

BUT HANA WOULDN'T LET ME THROW IT AWAY. "IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, GIVE IT TO ME," SHE SAID.

Apparently it should be Zawsze w Miłości!

HEH!

AND NOW IT'S BROUGHT YOU HERE TODAY...

...AND RAKU... AND KOSAKI TOO.

...YOU READING THE BOOK...

...THAT LED TO...

BUT THEN...

IT'S A LOVELY STORY.

NOT AT ALL.

ISN'T THAT STRANGE?

ARE YOU DISAPPOINTED?

SOMETIMES THE TRUTH HAS THE POWER TO SPOIL OUR FANTASIES.

BUT THAT'S THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BOOK.

NOT AT ALL!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

I'M SORRY I CAN'T BE MORE HELPFUL.

IT WAS JUST BETWEEN YOU CHILDREN, SO I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS.

I UNDERSTAND YOU MADE PROMISES TO EACH OTHER, BASED ON THE STORY.

I CAN TELL YOU WHERE.

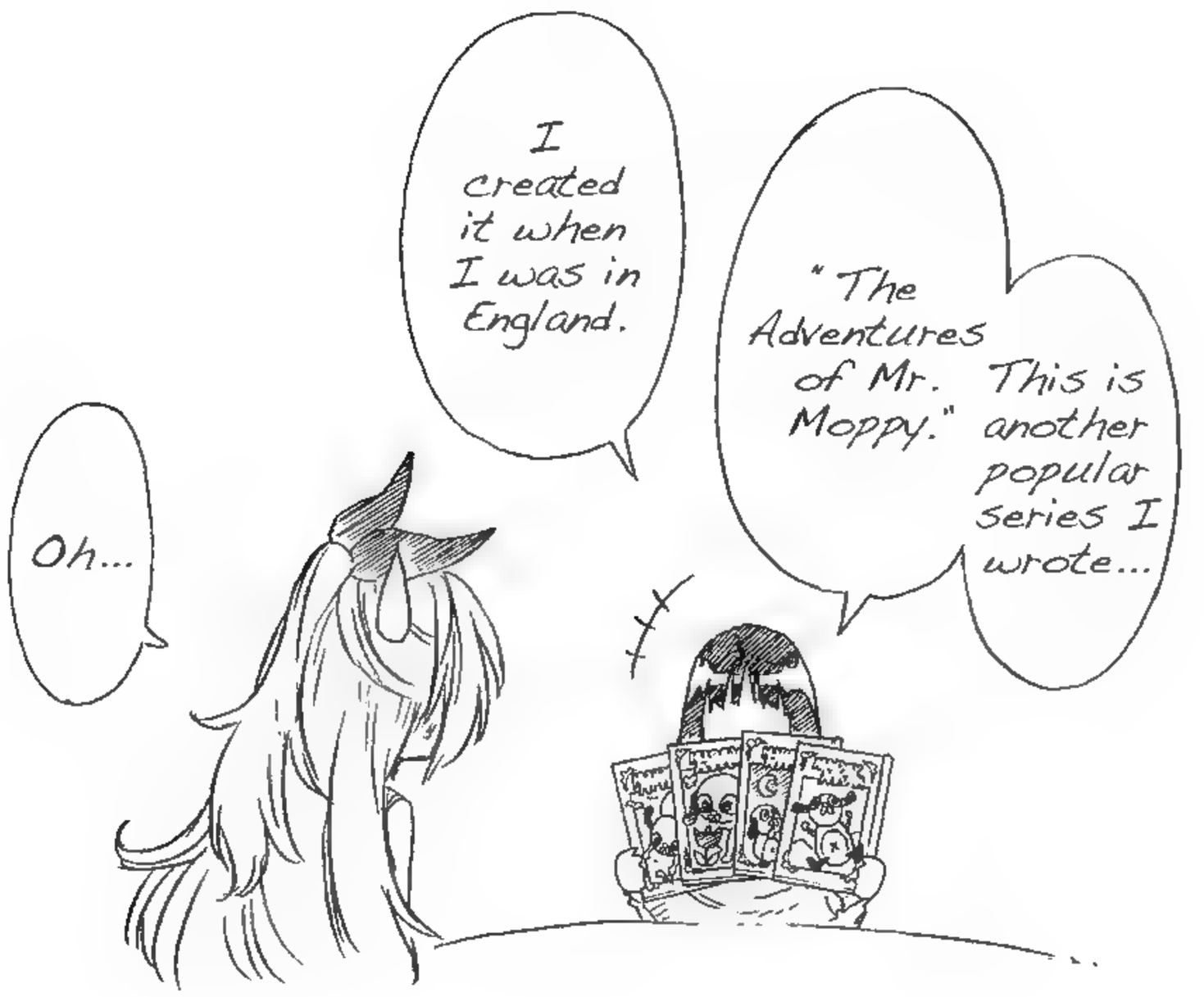
...THERE'S SOMEWHERE YOU COULD TRY GOING.

IF YOU'RE STILL LOOKING FOR A HINT ABOUT THE PAST...

TENKU HIGHLAND...

THE PLACE...

...WHERE YOU AND RAKU MET 12 YEARS AGO...


I created it when I was in England.
"The Adventures of Mr. Moppy." This is another popular series I wrote...
Oh...

TAK
TAK

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY. LET'S TALK AGAIN SOMETIME.

I NEVER KNOW WHERE I'LL BE, SO JUST CONTACT ME.

YES!

I'D LOVE THAT!

Chapter-217:-Decision

GOODBYE, RAKU'S MOTHER!

SEE YOU AGAIN!

IT MIGHT HELP ME REMEMBER SOMETHING.

I DO WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED...

YES...

ARE YOU GOING TO THE PLACE...

...I TOLD YOU ABOUT?

RAKU IS CERTAINLY LUCKY...

...SUCH A LOVELY, SINCERE GIRL.

YOU'VE GROWN UP TO BE...

...THAT A GIRL LIKE YOU CARES ABOUT HIM.

I LIED.

I'M SORRY, CHITOGE.

...RAKU TOLD ME ABOUT THE PROMISE HE MADE.

BUT 12 YEARS AGO...

IT SEEMS ...

...RAKU DOESN'T REMEMBER IT HIMSELF ...

...YOU MUST FIND IT FOR YOURSELF...

BUT IF YOU STILL WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

SOMETIMES THE TRUTH DESTROYS YOUR DREAMS.

BUT...

...IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT FOR ME TO TELL YOU.

EVEN IF IT MEANS GETTING HURT...

YOU STILL LOOK DOWN IN THE DUMPS.

WHAT'S UP?

YO, RAKU!

PLUS IT'S OUR LAST SUMMER AS HIGH SCHOOLERS!

WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES NOT TO WASTE IT!

C'MON, IT'S SUMMER VACATION!

SHOW A LITTLE ENTHUSIASM!

SHU...

...

I KNOW... THAT'S NOT YOUR STYLE.

YEAH, BUT THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO NOW BUT WAIT, RIGHT?

YOU MIGHT AS WELL CHILL OUT A BIT.

PSHH!

D'YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO BE LAUGHING IT UP?

YOU KNOW THE SITUATION, RIGHT?

YOU'VE BEEN WEARING THAT SERIOUS FACE FOR A WHILE NOW.

BESIDES ...

PSHH!

EVEN BEFORE KIRISAKI DISAPPEARED ...

EVER SINCE WE STARTED SENIOR YEAR, ACTUALLY.

I JUST... BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW.

...I STILL HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM. I GUESS ...

WHEN WE SAW KIRISAKI IN NEW YORK, SHE ACTUALLY LOOKED OKAY.

YEAH ...

...THIS ENTIRE TIME... EVER SINCE THE DAY I REALIZED I LIKE THEM BOTH...

...THINK-ING ABOUT IT. ... CAN'T STOP ...

BECAUSE THEY REALLY MATTER TO ME, BECAUSE I REALLY CARE...

BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW...

...I HAVE TO DECIDE ... I KNOW...

AND I STILL DON'T KNOW.

...I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT NONSTOP. REALLY, NONSTOP!

THIS IS ALL YOURS TO FIGURE OUT, RAKU.

ALL I CAN SAY IS GOOD LUCK.

...

YOUR FEELINGS FOR ONODERA, OF COURSE...

YEAH... IT'S BEEN IN YOU A LONG TIME.

...BUT ALSO FOR KIRISAKI.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S ANY COMFORT...

BUT...

WELL...

...BUT I CAN TELL YOU SOMETHING I HEARD, ABOUT HOW TO KNOW IF YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE.

YOU SEE A RAINBOW...

IMAGINE THIS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

?

HANG ON. THERE'S MORE.

WHY? OKAY... I IMAGINED IT. ...?

A rainbow?

YOU DISCOVER AN AWESOME NEW CAFÉ IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

OPEN

MENU

YOU SEE A SHOOTING STAR.

AND SINCE IT'S YOU...YOU GET A TEA LEAF THAT FLOATS STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN...

???

YOUR CHANGE WHEN YOU BUY SOMETHING IS EXACTLY 777 YEN.

...THAT MAKE YOU FEEL HAPPY OR LUCKY...

ALL THOSE LITTLE THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN LIFE...

WHEN YOU WIN SOMETHING SMALL BUT AWESOME IN A RAFFLE...

WHEN YOU DIS-COVER NEW MUSIC YOU REALLY LOVE...

WHEN YOU SEE AN AMAZING SUNSET ...

...YOU WANT TO TELL RIGHT AWAY?

WHO'S THE PERSON...

WHOSE FACE COMES TO MIND?

RAKU...

WHOSE FACE...

...POPPED INTO YOUR HEAD?

?

I...

OH!

I KNOW.

YEAH.

DID YOU FIGURE OUT WHO IT IS?

WHAT IS IT, RAKU?

I FINALLY KNOW.

I KNOW WHICH ONE I WANT TO BE WITH FROM NOW ON.

I FOUND THE ANSWER INSIDE OF ME.

YEAH?

I'M SURE.

IT'S TRUE, THE FACE I SAW HELPED ME...

...BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON.

HUH?

YEAH.

UM... UH... RAKU?

I KNOW IT'S WEIRD COMING FROM ME, BUT ARE YOU SURE?

YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS?

If you're sure... But...

ALL THE STUFF I'VE BEEN THINK-ING...

...JUST FINALLY REALLY CAME TOGETHER.

YOU REALLY HELPED ME. THANK YOU.

I FOUND OUT WHERE CHITOGE IS, SO I THOUGHT I'D TELL YOU.

YOU WANT TO KNOW, RIGHT?

HEYA, KIDDO. HOW ARE YOU?

HANA?

BRRRING

THE REST...

...IS UP TO YOU.

YOU CAN'T MOVE FORWARD UNLESS YOU FACE YOUR FEARS.

THERE.

NOW YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY ANYMORE, CHITOGE.

YEAH.

CHITOGE'S ON HER WAY THERE NOW.

THAT'S THE PLACE WHERE YOU ALL MET AS KIDS AND MADE THE PROMISE?

TENKU HIGH-LAND...

BEEP

THERE YOU GO AGAIN... ANYWAY ...

I'VE GOTTA HURRY OR SHE MIGHT RUN OFF.

THE PROMISED LAND.

SOUNDS LIKE AN APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR A BIG MOMENT OF TRUTH.

YOU'VE DECIDED, HAVEN'T YOU?

YEAH. I HAVE.

ARE YOU GOING TO CONFESS YOUR FEELINGS?

I SEE.

ONCE THAT'S RESOLVED, I'LL CONFESS MY FEELINGS.

FIRST I'VE GOTTA HANDLE THIS THING WITH CHITOGE.

BUT THAT'S ON HOLD FOR NOW.

CHAK

AND...

THANKS.

I'LLL CONTACT ONODERA TOO.

I BET YOU COULD USE THE SUPPORT. BESIDES, I WANT TO SEE THE PLACE.

I CAN GO WITH YOU, SINCE IT'S IN JAPAN.

I wonder where she is.

WHAT?!

YOU KNOW WHERE THE MISTRESS IS?!

WOW ...

THE SOUTH POLE?!

Why?!

JUST CHECKING OUT THE AMUNDSEN-SCOTT SOUTH POLE STATION...

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

HUH?

SORRY I'VE BEEN OUT OF TOUCH... I'VE BEEN SEARCHING ALL OVER FOR THE MISTRESS...

IF WE DON'T CATCH HER THERE, THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE SHE MIGHT GO NEXT.

LET'S GET OUR STUFF TOGETHER AND MEET BACK UP.

OKAY!

SEE YOU THERE!

I DID CHECK THAT PLACE ONCE. I'LL BE THERE ASAP.

RIGHT!

BEEP

GOTCHA!

RAKU SEEMS LIKE HIMSELF AGAIN.

FINALLY...

LATER!

BETTER REPORT THIS, AS USUAL! ♡

ANY-WAY...

I CAN'T MISS THIS.

I GET THE FEELING SOMETHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN.

THE SITE OF THE PROMISE ...

SO...RAKU DEAREST IS FINALLY HEADED FOR THE SPOT?

YES...OF COURSE I CAN'T MISS IT.

WELL! THANK YOU FOR KEEPING ME POSTED, AS ALWAYS.

TEEDLE-DEE♪

THE NAME BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...

TENKU HIGH-LAND...

BEEP

...UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF TOO.

I HAVE...

FINALLY, THE TIME HAS COME.

...ONE LAST TIME?

WILL YOU INDULGE ME...

YOKO...

SHF

...IS TENKU HIGHLAND ...

SO THIS...

Volume 24--Night of Falling Stars/END

SEARCH

"TENGU HIGHLAND!!"

CLIK

Search | Tengu Highland

*Another shameless plug!

NISEKOI
False Love

GLARE

?!

JOLT

IS IT RELATED TO THAT?

THE POPULARITY RANKINGS JUST CAME OUT...

DID THE ARTIST FORGET TO COLOR YOU?

WHAT'S WRONG, MARIKA? YOU LOOK PALE.

WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

WHAT'S THIS PAPER?

UWAM!

YOWCH!!

HYAAAA!!

NISEKOI
False Love

1st Chitoge Kirisaki
4443 votes

2nd Kosaki Onodera
4337 votes

3rd Seishirō Tsugumi
2048 votes

4th Marika Tachibana
1623 votes

5th Haru Onodera
1041 votes

6th Ruri Miyamoto
792 votes

7th Yui Kanakura
216 votes

8th Chika Tachibana
186 votes

9th Fu
165 votes

10th Elraine Figarette
159 votes

11th Raku Ichijo
156 votes

WHOA!

YAYYYY!! I'M NUMBER ONE!!!

WOW... WOW!

FIRST PLACE!! OH, MISTRESS!!

CONGRATULATIONS, CHITOGE!

THANKS FOR THE HAIRCUT!

SURE THING!

THANK YOU FOR VOTING!

HUH?

WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

...

We received 15,795 votes! Thank you for participating!

3rd

NISEKOI False Love

Character Popularity Ranking!!

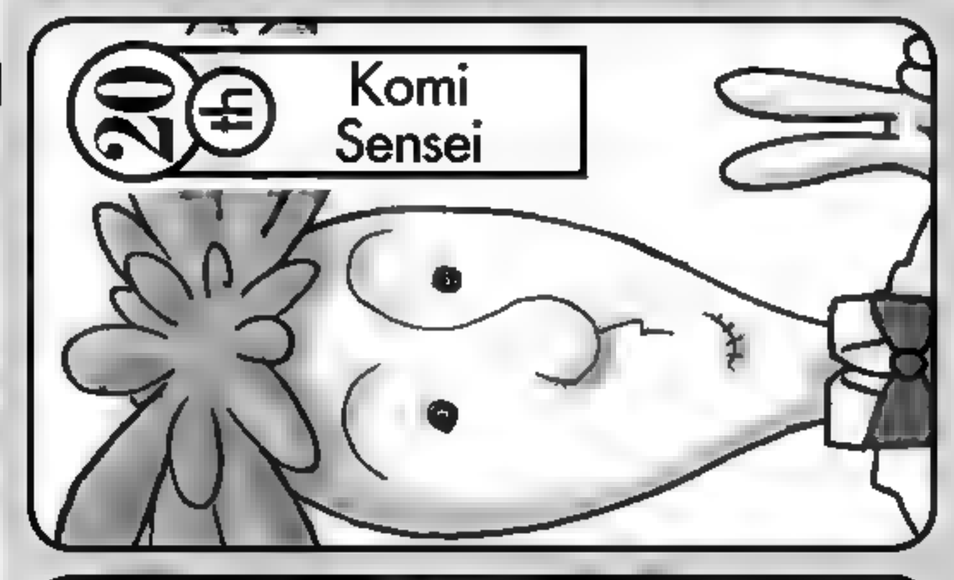
12th Place and Beyond!

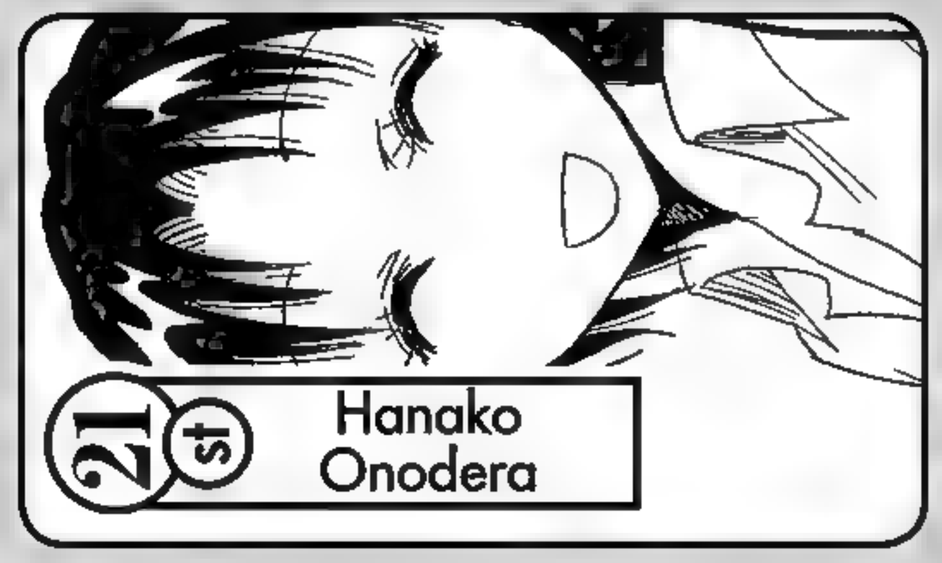
Here are the rankings for 12th place and beyond. Did your favorite character make the list?!

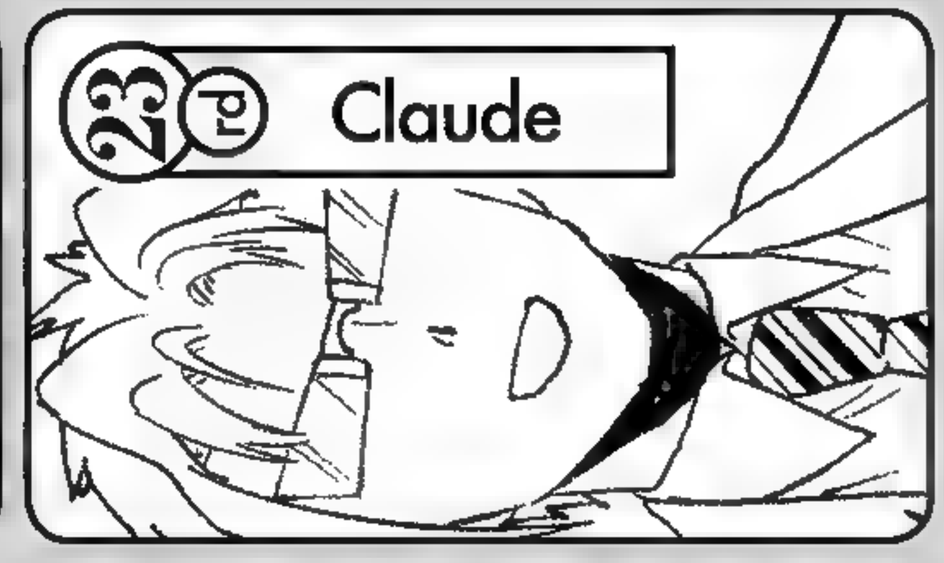
Nisekoi Character Popularity Ranking!!

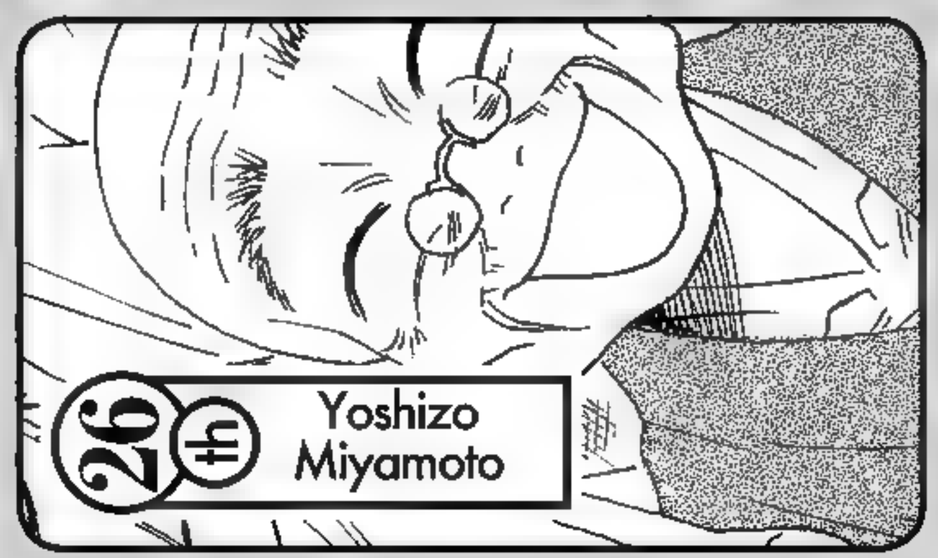
3rd

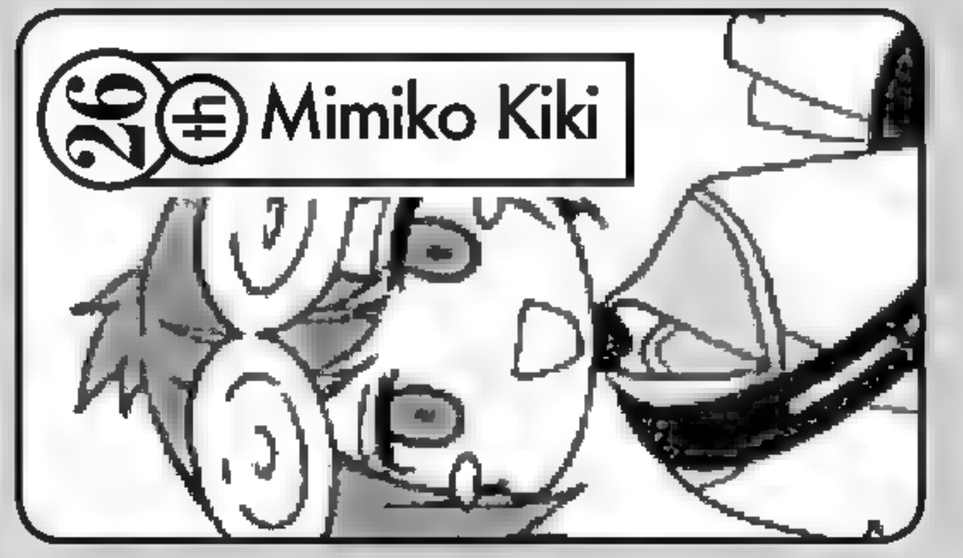
18th Place and Beyond!

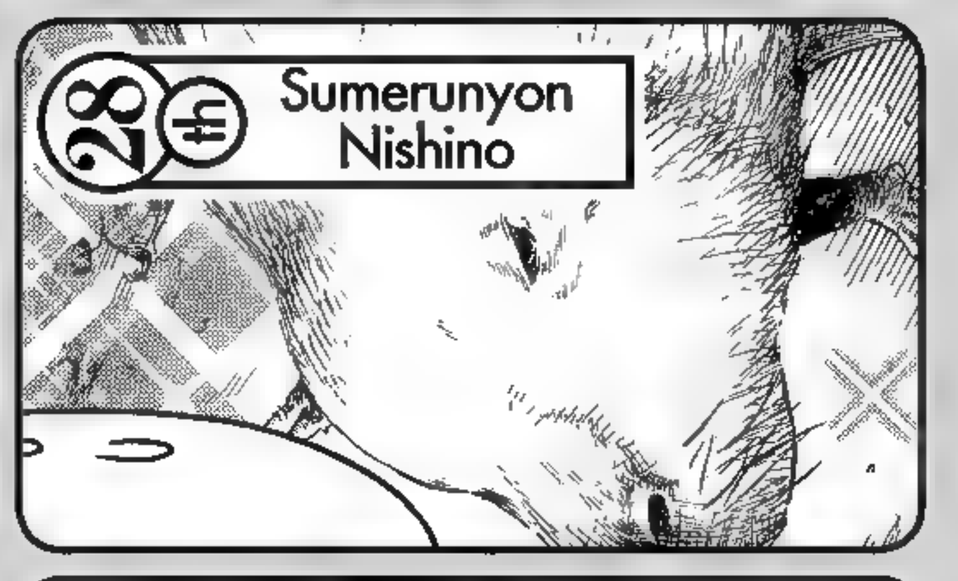


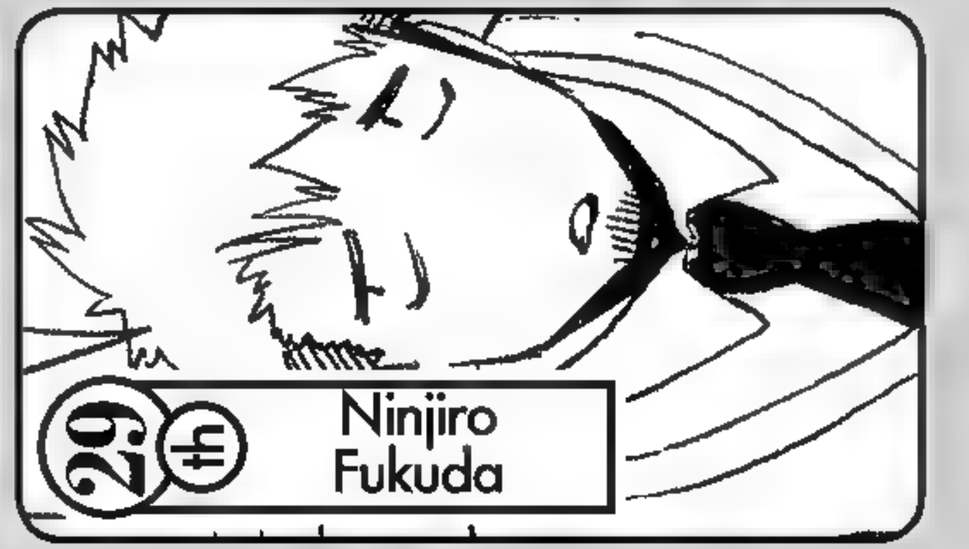












Surprise Entries!

Yuka Minoshita, Chika Tachibana in high school, Ruri's younger friend, Shu's glasses, Taishi Tsutsui Sensei, Lord Hyumeron, Margarita de Sato, Beauty Edelweiss Sakurako, Takeo Goda, Koro Sensei, Onodera in middle school when she gets mad at Raku for stepping on her good-luck charm, Jessica Miralda, Kiri Luchile (of *Double Arts*), Magical Chocolatier Haru, Haru as a little girl reading a picture book, Itakeshi Sakurai Sensei of NISEKOI, Haru's teddy bear undies, Tsugumi's ribbon, KOSAKI, Mari's groom, Chitoge Kirsaki's boogers, Yu Saito, Jo Otsuki, Hikaru Nanakusa, Toru Susuya, the cat Raku rescues during the running race, Goriraku (Raku's weird face in chapter 199), Nao Toyama, Mari as a little girl, Mikakoshi, the MIKAKO dish held by Yamada in panel 3, page 2, chapter 155, the chicken on the wrapper of the piece of chocolate Tsugumi gave Raku, the shaggy-haired scientist guy of the Beehive R&D department from the Table of Contents illustration in volume 12

Reflections

It's been two years since our last character ranking. This is the first time Chitoge has been honored with the number one spot!! Kosaki came in a close second. There was quite a lot of reshuffling this time at the top of the chart. A cutting-edge special interest group backed Marika's mother, boosting her to eighth place. And a character from *Double Arts*, a different project by Komi Sensei, came in tenth! But the biggest shocker was Marika in fourth place. Fourth place is nothing to sneeze at, but for some reason Y-san in Chiba didn't support her this time with mass votes. I was feeling a bit sad about it one day when a bouquet of flowers and a pair of glass slippers were delivered for Marika. You can see her with them in the illustration. Our love for the characters takes many forms! That's the lesson I learned from this popularity ranking!

BONUS COMIC

A story from when Paula was still new at school...

Um... Your name's Onodera, right?

Hey...

What's that?

Huh?

Oh, this?

Japanese sweets?

These are some Japanese sweets I made.

Yes... Traditional Japanese desserts.

You can eat them?

They're all so different.

Of course!

CHOMP

How is it?

I made them myself, so they might not be very good...

Want to try one?

Okay, thanks...

Ahh...

I don't like it that much.

I see. That's too bad. That's kind of how Japanese sweets are...

I like cookies and pancakes better.

It's not very sweet, and the texture's kind of gritty...

How about this one?

It's called a Strawberry Daifuku.

No, thanks.

I don't think Japanese sweets are my thing.

Come on...

You can't know unless you try it!

I said, no thank you!

You don't give up, do you?

Come on, try it. It's good!

Nah, I don't wanna.

Just one bite!

I said no!

GASP

I'm getting a weird vibe ...!!

GRRRR

She's giving off an aura like Big Sis Jessica!

Something tells me I should stop resisting!

What's with her?!

Yay! Thank you!

Just one bite.

Fine...

And so began a beautiful friendship...

Thus, Paula's love of Japanese sweets was born...
So juicy!!
Wow, this is delicious!